THE TIMES 35P

No. 65,841 WEDNESDAY MARCH 19 1997

TIE SOCIETY
Grace Bradberry on men who win by a neck
PAGE 16

HOCKNEY AT 60
Flower power returns to London
Richard Cork, PAGE 38

PLUS: Guide to the top fifty British festivals
ARTS, PAGE 39

ALAN COREN'S ROYAL DIARY
Goodbye, Prime Minister ...such a very nice man
PAGE 18

Shephard attack on Labour as education Bill is casualty of last-minute deal to clear decks

Tories forced to abandon school plans

By Philip Webster, Arthur Leathley and Janet Bush

FLAGSHIP plans to allow greater selection and the expansion of grant-maintained schools were sacrificed by the Government yesterday in the rush to clear the legislative decks before Parliament rises on Friday for the general election.

On the second day of the election campaign, Conservative business managers were forced, during negotiations with their Labour counterparts, to drop 19 clauses from the education Bill, including plans which they said would pave the way for a grammar school in every large town.

The Tories reacted angrily last night. Gillian Shephard, the Education Secretary, claimed that Labour had "shown themselves in their true colours. However much they pretend, we now know what Labour really believes. They are opposed to excellence, opposed to choice, opposed to diversity, indifferent to standards of good behaviour." She said that Labour had ignored the wishes of four out of five voters who want selection in schools.

The proposals were the main casualty of the horse-trading between the Labour and Tory whips, which was designed to get as much legislation through as possible before MPs depart.

In return, Labour has agreed to accept the Bill's proposal to extend to preparatory schools the assisted places scheme, which it is committed to phasing out.

Another minister said: "This proves that Labour is against selection, apart from those members of the front-bench who want it for their own children."

The Government pledged, however, to bring back the proposals in its election manifesto and to make them a substantial campaigning theme. The bulk of the Bill's clauses will remain, including those increasing discipline, introducing home-school contracts between schools and parents, Ofsted inspection powers over local education authorities, assessments of children entering primary schools and targets for improving standards in schools.

Regulation of supply teachers and reforms to the careers service will also survive under the whips' agreement.

In another deal last night, Labour agreed to allow through the crime Bill proposed by Michael Howard, the Home Secretary. However, it will support a Lords amendment giving judges more discretion over minimum sentences. The vote Commons vote is expected tomorrow and it appears likely that the Government will be able to overturn the defeat it sustained last month.

Mrs Shephard was also defeated over the eduation Bill last month, when peers supported moves that would require schools planning to increase selection to consult affected neighbouring schools. Any objections would trigger a local public inquiry. The Lords defeat came after MPs rejected government plans to relax controls on grant-maintained schools, allowing them to increase by 50 per cent the proportion of pupils selected by ability.

The behind-the-scenes manoeuvrings took place yesterday as the main parties began marking out the battle lines for the campaign.

Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, set out his plans to impose a windfall tax on the privatised utilities, although his refusal to name the companies affected was described as disgraceful by the Tories. Mr Brown claimed that a damning all-party report on

Continued on page 2, col 5

TV WATCH
NICHOLAS WAPSHOTT

> "Blair was not flustered, but you could tell by his face that he is rarely spoken to like this. He is used to being applauded"

Review .... Page 8
Matthew Parris .... Page 2
Peter Riddell .... Page 9
Simon Jenkins .... Page 18
Media .... Page 23

SIMON WALKER

Norma and John Major together on the campaign trail yesterday. Her smile waned as he toyed with racing car

Face that says I'd rather not be here

By Arthur Leathley
Political Correspondent

NORMA MAJOR'S finely-honed "celebrity smile" vanished abruptly yesterday to reveal a persistently glum expression as her husband tried to inject a dash of glamour into the day-old election campaign.

John Major was clearly delighted at the prospect of meeting David Coulthard, Britain's most recent motor racing hero, and getting the chance to meddle with one of the fastest cars on Earth. But his wife, after flashing an initial smile to waiting photographers, looked decidedly fed up with the rest of the visit to McLaren's Formula One racing plant in Surrey.

Whether she was suffering first-day campaign nerves or a wife's natural boredom in watching her husband fiddle with macho racing machines, her gloomy countenance did little to lighten the Tory campaign mood. After an hour-long visit, Mrs Major fled the Woking plant in a separate car from the Prime Minister, renewing Tory worries that she may not be an eager traveller on the campaign trail.

Mr Major's trip was primed by Tory strategists to conjure up images of racing starts, victories and even a little sporting machismo. Instead, the day was marred by minor mishaps.

The media on the Tory campaign battle-bus travelled towards the McLaren factory with appetites whetted by promises that Coulthard's Australian Grand Prix-winning car would be "fired up". Their enthusiasm waned on arrival. The shell of the car, without wheels, was balanced precariously on a pair of trestles.

Undaunted, Mr Major strode to the gleaming machine with all the purpose of a racing champion. Alas, the detachable steering wheel came off in his hands.

When he tried to talk about privatised rail cancellations, his speech was drowned — by a passing high-speed train.

Cabinet ministers lose fast track to the Lords

By Our Political Editor

JOHN MAJOR is preparing to break with tradition by declining to give life peerages to all the former senior ministers retiring at the general election.

In a move that will send a tremor down the long list of ministers counting on a second career in the House of Lords, the Prime Minister has indicated that he believes life peerages should go to senior figures likely to carry on working — and voting — for the Conservative cause in the Upper House. Those thought more likely to devote most of their time to business could be disappointed.

It has been a long-standing convention that Cabinet service guarantees a peerage — Sir John Nott, Defence Secretary during the Falklands war, was one of very few not to be so honoured.

But Mr Major has been disappointed by the voting records of some ennobled in 1992 and he now wants to shift the approach, using life peerages to reward loyalty and long service in important backbench posts.

He has a limited number of peerages at his disposal and does not believe that former ministers who regularly rebel against the Government from the backbenches should have a claim ahead of hard-working MPs who have backed a prime minister through thick and thin. It has also been noted that several former MPs who did not reach the Cabinet, such as Lord Clark of Kempston, have been excellent attenders in the Lords.

Win or lose on May 1, Mr Major will be responsible for June's dissolution honours

Continued on page 2, col 7

Surgeon shot over 'nothing'

Benjamin Dalton, a 29-year-old British surgeon, was shot dead in an argument "over nothing" with policemen at a checkpoint in the Congo.

Diana Dalton said: "Benjamin grabbed me by the arms and said 'Run'. I heard a number of shots and thought 'My God they are going to kill us'. I saw Benjamin fall. I bent down to him and saw the blood running down his back. He just opened his eyes and died in my arms." ....Page 3

Soap star

Sid Shaw won his High Court battle against America's Elvis Presley industry for the right to carry on selling Presley novelties from his east London shop. The judge liked Mr Shaw's soap so much that he took a bar home .....Page 7

Thatcher archive to join Churchill's at Cambridge

By Alan Hamilton

BARONESS THATCHER announced yesterday that she is giving her archive of personal and political papers on permanent loan to Churchill College, Cambridge, to allow scholars to study the longest premiership of the 20th century.

More than 1,000 boxes of documents, videos, photographs and personal effects will be handed over for safe keeping in the college strongrooms, where they will join the archive of Lady Thatcher's hero, Sir Winston Churchill. The Thatcher Foundation has been keeping the documents at its London office while their owner wrote her memoirs and has rebuffed many approaches from American universities and other foreign institutions anxious to possess an important slice of modern history.

Lady Thatcher said yesterday that she had always wanted her papers to remain in Britain. "I am therefore delighted that they are going to Churchill College, where they will join the papers of many distinguished 20th-century figures, including of course those of Sir Winston Churchill himself. I hope they will be a valuable source for students and scholars who wish to study the great changes brought about by the governments that I had the privilege to lead."

Scholars will not, however, have immediate and unlimited access to the papers. Many will be covered by the Government's 30-year rule on the opening of state papers and historians anxious to unearth the secrets of the Falklands War, the poll tax revolt or the 1984 miners' strike — three milestones of the Thatcher era likely to be of particular interest — will have to be patient or persuade the Cabinet Office to make exceptions.

The Thatcher Foundation is anxious to avoid the debacle that surrounded the Churchill archive two years ago, when Sir Winston's grandson and

Continued on page 2, col 4

Zaire braced for military takeover

From Sam Kiley in Kinshasa

THE prospects of a military coup in Zaire grew yesterday after the Parliament passed a vote of no confidence in the Prime Minister.

Opposition MPs said they had the backing of military leaders and would appoint a successor to Leon Kengo wa Dondo "very soon".

At the same time, several members of President Mobutu Sese Seko's family were reported to have fled across the River Congo to Brazzaville, apparently fearing that they would be priority targets either for the army or a popular uprising in support of the rebel leader Laurent Kabila. The President is being treated for cancer in Monaco.

Mr Kabila's forces are about 200 miles east, but the tension after the rebels' weekend victory at Kisangani is a further sign that Mr Mobutu's 31-year rule is close to an end.

The vote against Mr Kengo — who left for talks in Nairobi yesterday — narrowly missed the three quarters majority necessary to remove him from office, but opposition leaders said that his administration would be unable to function as they would ask the army to take over the central bank.

Many believe that the military could fill the vacuum left by a government unable to run the war effort and forbidden by the President from negotiating with Mr Kabila.

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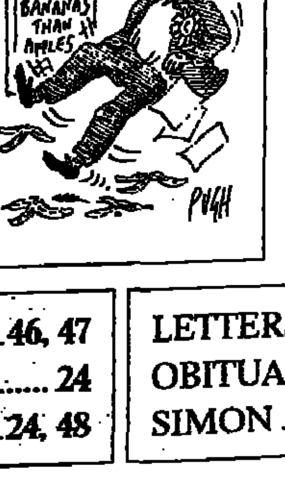
Apples lose their appeal as Britons go bananas


BRITONS EAT MORE BANANAS THAN APPLES
PUGH

By Michael Hornsby
Agriculture Correspondent

BANANAS, once an exotic luxury item, have replaced apples as Britain's most popular fresh fruit, with about five billion eaten every year.

It is a far cry from the dark days of the Second World War when beleaguered Britons had to satisfy their craving for the fruit with a concoction of mashed parsnips flavoured with sugar and banana essence. Bananas were unavailable from 1939 to 1945, and for children born during those years, the fruit was such a novelty that the Attlee Government distributed one free to everyone under the age of 18 when the first postwar supplies arrived.

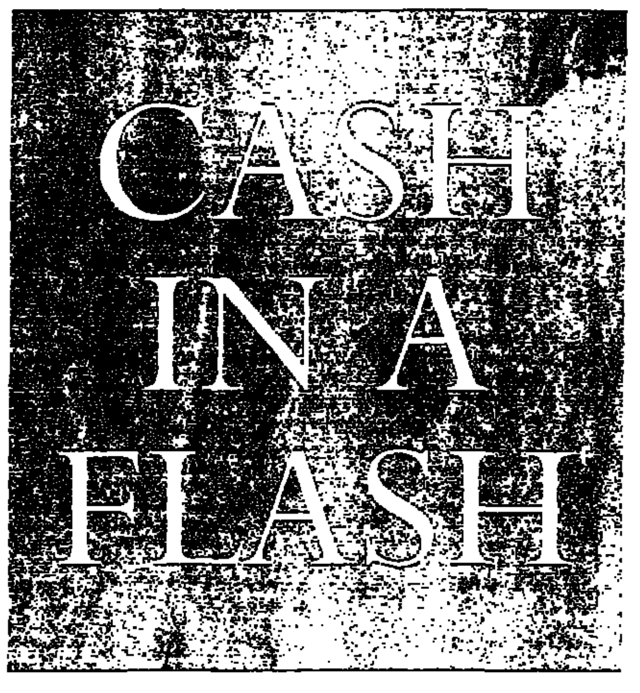
The banana-eating habit recovered strongly, but really took off only in the past 15 years when the fruit was marketed as a convenience health food that was high in energy and low in calories. The average banana contains three times as much potassium as any other fruit, carotene and vitamins A, B6 and E.

Consumption of bananas averaged 185g per person per week last year, compared with 175g for apples, according to a report by the Ministry of Agriculture. Until last year, apples had held the top position since records began in 1940. Now, however, Britons are eating an average two bananas a week compared with one apple.

Bananas — strictly speaking, a species of herb rather than a tree — are among the oldest cultivated plants in the world. They are thought to have originated in South-East Asia and are mentioned in a Buddhist text dating from around 600 BC.

Alexander the Great was probably the first European to eat a banana, tasting the fruit in India during his voyages of conquest. Arab traders are credited with bringing bananas to the Holy Land, Egypt and Africa. The word *banan* is Arabic for "finger". By the 16th century the fruit had reached the Caribbean.

Bananas came to Europe only in the late-19th century after the emergence of the refrigerated steam ship. The first commercial consignment of 20,000 bunches landed in September 1888.



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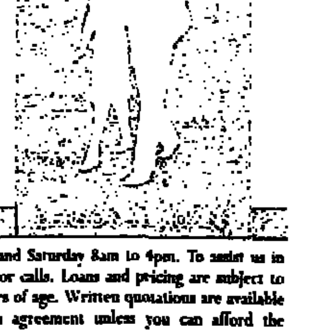


12
9 770140 046336

TV & RADIO 46, 47
WEATHER 24
CROSSWORDS 24, 48
LETTERS 19
OBITUARIES 21
SIMON JENKINS 18
ARTS 37-39
CHESS & BRIDGE 44
COURT & SOCIAL 20
SPORT 43-46, 48
HOMES 41
STYLE 16

Soapbox John breaks out again, armed and dangerous

MATTHEW PARRIS

POLITICAL SKETCH

Major's minders may care to note that to get their man's adrenalin flowing, all they need do is drive him to a market square anywhere in England and invite a crowd of yobs to shout at him for an hour. Back from Luton, the Prime Minister entered the Chamber spoiling for a fight.

John Major seems to have moved on in his imagination from the Commons chamber, and is now permanently on his soapbox. There were moments at Prime Minister's Questions when he looked ready to grab the Dispatch box, fling it to the floor and stand on it. Tony Blair, brandishing a sheaf of notes, tackled him on health service funding. Citizens should be warned not to approach Mr Major on this subject over the coming six weeks, as he is armed and extremely dangerous.

The PM let fly a positive arsenal of facts and statistics, waving his arms, shouting, then crouching back on to his bench like a bar-room pugilist being restrained with difficulty from glassing his opponent in the face. The Leader of the Opposition, whose inquiry had sounded reasonable enough, retreated under a hail of data. Earlier, the Prime Minister had even attacked Simon Hughes. Attacking Mr Hughes (Lib Dem, Southwark & Bermondsey) is the political equivalent of stoning the *budgie*.

A decent, earnest, harmless man, who does go on a bit, Hughes's question got rather bogged down. He had begun: "The Prime Minister made a uniquely personal decision to call the election for 1 May . . ."

"We know that!" shouted a Tory heckler. Undeterred, Hughes twittered on. Parliament was to be "prorogued this Friday," he declared.

"We know that too!" came *the heckle. But still he chirped.* "What a windbag!" shouted the Tories. Miss Boothroyd interrupted the birdsong to beg him to "spit it out". He finally did. He wanted to know why the PM had arranged for the House to rise on Friday. Major snapped back that it was to give him time to finish his question.

Major was not alone in his rush of pre-election aggression. Something seems to have happened to Stephen Dorrell in recent weeks which, to long-standing Dorrell-watchers, is rather disturbing. Previously a rational man, the Health Secretary now does little but shout.

At Health Questions yesterday, he started a sort of playground chant. Unlike the Opposition (he yelled) this Government was pledged to increase NHS spending "year on year, on year, on year, on year". All the Tory crawlers behind him took up the refrain in mockingbird chorus: "year, on year, on year, on year" they bawled. Then Mr Dorrell tried it again. The Tories would increase spending, as they had over the last 18 years, "year, on year, on year, on year, on . . ."

For a dreadful moment we thought Dorrell was going to repeat this eighteen times. The stunt was stupid, the effect displeasing.

This palpable Left-winger is hoping to earn his spurs among the thug tendency in his party by playing King of the Kids. He should remember what happened to the last Tory Wet who tried this: *David Hunt.* Not that anything made much sense yesterday. Labour's Rachel Squire (Dunfermline W) accused ministers of "closing thousands of elderly NHS beds." Andrew *MacKinlay* (*Lab.* Thurrock) was cross that the Transport Select Committee would be unable "to interview South West trains".

And the Prime Minister capped the lot. "More NHS patients are being created!" he announced.

We would advise Mr Major that turning electors — or indeed sentences — into stretcher cases is best left to John Prescott.

Major denies he sabotaged report on MP's sleaze

BY ANDREW PIERCE, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR and Liberal Democrat MPs expressed dismay yesterday that the report by Sir Gordon Downey, the standards commissioner, into the "cash-for-questions" affair will be kept a secret until after the general election.

John Major's decision to *prorogue Parliament on Friday* scuppered the publication of the Downey report into allegations against Neil Hamilton, a former minister, and other Tory MPs. Sir Gordon, who began his inquiry in October, when he was urged by the Speaker to conclude a swift investigation, is expected to complete the 150-page dossier early next week. Because of the prorogation, the Select Committee on Standards and Privileges, which was to have considered the report, will have been disbanded.

In the Commons yesterday, Mr Major denied that the *imminent publication of the* report had influenced his timing of the election announcement and hence of when Parliament would rise. He said that he had had "no knowledge" of when Sir Gordon was to present his report to the select committee which is chaired by Tony Newton, the Leader of the Commons.

After the election, the Nolan committee, set up by Mr Major to report on standards in public life, will produce a report on the performance of Sir Gordon and of the privileges committee. The failure to publish the cash-for-questions report will dominate the Nolan inquiry. Sir Gordon has investigated allegations that MPs received cash to table *questions in the Commons.* He also looked at payments to 30 MPs' fighting funds from the lobbyist Ian Greer.

Sir Gordon's report will not be seen by any MPs or the people to whom it refers. It will be locked in a safe in his office until after the campaign.

Members of the Standards Committee were furious at the postponement of publication. Nigel Jones, Liberal Democrat MP for Cheltenham, said: "Serious allegations have surfaced in the media against MPs that will not be answered before polling day.

In future, an independent organisation should investigate. Self-regulation of MPs by MPs does not work."

The Tory leadership, which *had been braced for damaging* headlines on the eve of the election, will be relieved that time has run out for Sir Gordon. Labour, which had hoped to capitalise on Tory "sleaze", will be infuriated.

Other Tory MPs under investigation include Michael Brown, MP for Brigg & Cleethorpes, Tim Smith, MP for Beaconsfield, and Sir Michael Grylls, who is retiring as MP for Surrey North West.

Labour accused the Prime Minister of opting for a six-week election campaign, to avoid further damaging "sleaze" disclosures. Brian Wilson, Labour's campaign spokesman, said that the country was wondering why there was to be such a long campaign. "Perhaps we now have the reason. If Mr Major had allowed Parliament to hang around for another week he would have been facing what is potentially the most explosive report on the conduct of MPs this century."

Downey: publication was expected next week

Leading article, page 19

PETER NICHOLLS

Thatcher's archive will join Sir Winston Churchill's

Thatcher papers on loan

Continued from page 1

namesake, the Conservative MP for Davyhulme, put the papers up for sale despite their long-term residence in the college named after his grandfather. Eventually, the papers were bought for the nation with a £12.5 million National Lottery grant. A spokesman for Lady Thatcher said yesterday that her children Mark and Carol were delighted with the Churchill College arrangement. Their mother has given the college £25,000 to pay for an archivist for a year to begin cataloguing her papers.

Brown and Clarke clash in windfall tax confusion

BY JILL SHERMAN AND CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

GORDON BROWN and Kenneth Clarke clashed yesterday over Labour's proposed windfall tax on privatised utilities amid renewed confusion over which companies might have to pay the levy.

While sources close to Gordon Brown said that the airports operator BAA and British Telecom would be liable for the tax, other leadership figures insisted it was unlikely that these two firms would be affected.

Mr Clarke said the tax would present a "serious threat" to the country's continued recovery by imposing higher energy charges on both industry and consumers. The Chancellor said it was a "disgrace" that Mr Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, still refused to name the companies that would be affected by the tax which is expected to be introduced within weeks of a Labour election victory.

Mr Brown said he would not name the firms, because it would only be fair to do so in *government after consultation* with the regulators. But his aides said the tax could apply to all utilities privatised since 1979 which were regulated and licensed by statute.

The party's legal advisers say that Labour cannot name individual companies as this would be seen as unfair discrimination and could affect the markets. But Mr Brown's aides insisted that any regulated and licensed privatised utility would be liable to be taxed if it made excess profits.

British Telecommunications, the airports operator BAA, Railtrack, British Gas and electricity and water companies all fall into this *category*.

But some sources later said it was unlikely that BT or BAA would have to pay. "All companies are liable, but that does not mean that all have to pay," said one. "Gas,electricity and water companies are the most likely to be hit."

Later Labour seized on an all-party committee report on how the energy industries have been controlled and regulated as justification for the windfall tax.

Lax price controls, excessive profits and a burden for the taxpayers through large job losses in electricity and gas were highlighted in the Trade and Industry Select Committee's investigation into energy regulation.

Martin O' Neill, the Labour chairman of the trade and *industry committee said the* report, which looks at how the independent regulators have controlled the gas and electricity companies since they were privatised "makes the case quite clear for some form of tax".

But John Butterfill, a Conservative member of the committee, said: "To suggest that we should have a windfall tax on the back of this report is a travesty."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Teachers warn of boycott on reports

Teachers yesterday threatened to boycott national curriculum *assessments* and called for a ten-fold increase in the number of pupils expelled and sent to special schools. Failure to cut "unnecessary" assessment and report-writing would lead to a ballot on a boycott within a year, the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers said.

The union's also called for the limit on an unpromoted teacher's salary to rise to £30,000. In return, teachers would be accept tougher checks on competence.

CSA complaints

The Whitehall ombudsman dealt with more complaints about the Child Support Agency than any other branch *of government. They* represented a quarter of the total caseload of almost 2,000 complaints, according to the annual report from Michael Buckley, the newly appointed *ombudsman.*

Island offer

Islanders in Harris, in the Hebrides, have been offered a possible £12 million by landowners *to accept a giant* opencast quarry. The offer, over its 60-year life, is 2p per tonne of minerals sold. The quarry operators have already offered a community *trust* fund of £140,000 a year at peak production.

Water all-clear

More than 300,000 homes in parts of Hertfordshire and *north London have been told* they no longer have to boil *their* water, which had been contaminated with a bacterium. Three Valleys Water said that samples taken over the *past five days had shown no* trace of the cryptosporidium bug.

Prison inquest

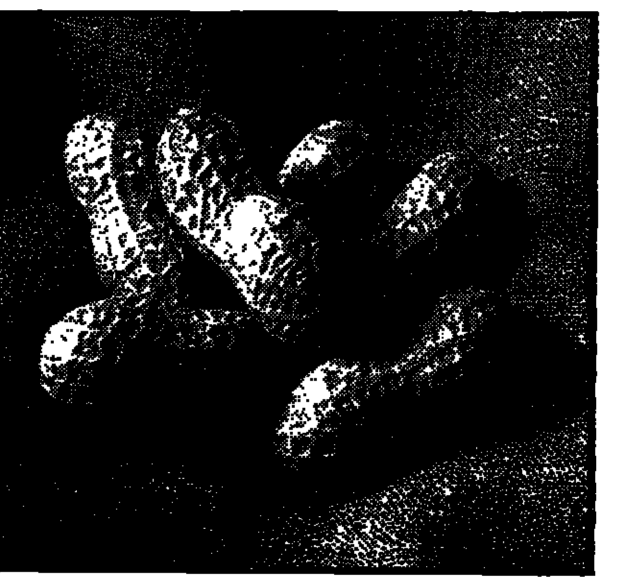
A diabetic thief was found dead two days after being sent to Lincoln jail, an inquest was told yesterday. Brett Hay, 31, of Ipswich, had telephoned his wife hours earlier, saying he would die unless she *alerted the authorities, but* her efforts to contact his solicitor on a Sunday last July failed. The hearing continues.

Smile wiped off

A sculptor has redesigned a bronze relief of the Queen, which she is due to unveil at a Nottinghamshire school, after he was advised not to show her smiling. Sir Andrew Buchanan, Lord Lieutenant of Nottinghamshire, was unhappy with Gordon Brown's work because it showed *the* Queen's teeth.

Suspect revealed

Video still pictures of a sex *attacker suspected* of 19 assaults on women in the West Midlands were released by police. The images were taken by a camerea inside a cash machine in Birmingham *where he used credit cards* stolen from a victim. Police believe he has been hiding since his attacks were featured on BBC's *Crimewatch.*



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Tories defy Major over immigration

BY ANDREW PIERCE, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TORY *MPs in the West* Midlands carried out their threat yesterday to publish a joint statement criticising Labour Party plans to weaken immigration rules.

The unanimous decision yesterday has signalled that many Tory MPs will play the race card in the general election campaign despite appeals from the Prime Minister not to do so.

But there was confusion over the position of senior Tories. A government whip, who attended the private meeting at the Commons last night, conspicuously failed to *voice any criticism of the* MPs' plans. Derek Conway, MP for Shrewsbury and Atcham, and the West Midlands Tory Whip, was silent *throughout* the hour-long meeting.

In a new twist, sources close to the Prime Minister indicated last night that, contrary to his public strictures to MPs not to raise immigration on the hustings, he was sympathetic to the actions of the West Midland group of Tory MPs. Earlier this month Mr Major slapped down Nicholas Budgen, the MP for Wolverhampton South West, when he voiced concern over Labour's proposals during Prime Minister's Question Time. Mr Budgen highlighted Labour's plan to change the rule that gaining entry to Britain was not the primary purpose of an immigrant marrying a British citizen. Labour would also introduce a right of appeal for those refused a visitor's visa.

The senior Tory source said last night: "John Major misunderstood the question from Nick Budgen because he never heard what he was saying. *He [Mr Major] believes* strongly that we have got good race relations because we have such strong laws. He also believes that we have to *limit the numbers.* He thinks that immigration is becoming a big problem in Europe."

The disclosure of Mr Major's private thoughts will be seized on by Labour MPs who have long suspected that Tory MPs in inner city seats would exploit fears over immigration. It comes after Mr Major courted voters from the ethnic minorities last year.

Peerages

Continued from page 1

list, and he hopes his ideas will become the norm.

After the 1992 election he created 21 life peers of whom ten, including Baroness *Thatcher*, had served in Conservative Cabinets.

Eight former Cabinet ministers and two former chief whips leave the Commons on Friday when the present session of *Parliament* ends. They are: Kenneth Baker, John Biffen, Paul Channon, Douglas Hurd, Michael Jopling, Sir Patrick Mayhew, John Patten, David Howell and the two former Chief Whips, Tim Renton and Richard Ryder.

According to informed sources Mr Hurd, the former Foreign Secretary, and Sir Patrick, the Northern Ireland Secretary, are certain to receive peerages. Almost certainly on the list are Mr Ryder, Chief Whip for much of Mr Major's premiership, and Mr Jopling, Chief Whip and Agriculture Minister under Lady *Thatcher*.

Non-ministers who might be rewarded include Dame Jill Knight, Sir Peter Hordern, Sir Terence Higgins, Sir Fergus Montgomery and Sir James Spicer.

Mr Major's expected move is also likely to be seen as a way to bring more discipline to the parliamentary party.

Tory plans dropped

Continued from page 1

the way the energy industries have been regulated was justification for the tax.

The Trade and Industry Select Committee inquiry highlighted lax price controls, excessive profits and a burden for the taxpayers caused by large job losses in the electricity and gas companies.

With all the polls pointing to a Labour election victory, there was also private satisfaction for the Labour leadership in the latest figures for the public finances. These suggest that this year's budget deficit is set to come in well below target, which would ease pressure on a Labour government.

However, Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, seized on the figures as giving the lie to Labour claims "that there's any problem with the public finances, which we have under control". Healthy tax receipts, reflecting robust economic growth, limited public borrowing last month to £3.6 billion, less than the City had been expecting. With only one month of the present financial year to go, cumulative borrowing has totalled £14.1 billion, well below the £22.2 billion figure recorded at the same stage a year ago.

Economists are expecting public borrowing for the year to fall well below Mr Clarke's Budget forecast in November of £26.4 billion, perhaps by as much as £2 to £3 billion.

John Major was again in upbeat form during his penultimate Question Time clash with Tony Blair. After the Labour leader claimed his party would slash bureaucracy to "rebuild the NHS", the Prime Minister replied that, while Labour might have set up the health service, the Tories had built it up.

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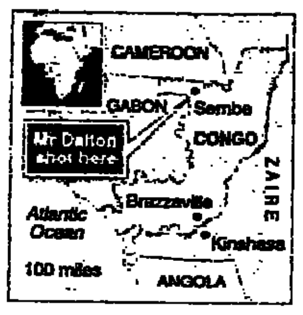
Surgeon 'died in my arms'

Wife tells how husband was shot dead in Congo

By Bill Frost



A BRITISH surgeon died in his wife's arms after being shot at a remote police checkpoint in the Congo when he argued with armed policemen, his family disclosed yesterday.

Benjamin Dalton's widow, Diana, a member of the six-strong party heading overland for South Africa, described how she called out his name as he lost consciousness. "He just opened his eyes and died in my arms," she said.

"We had reached a checkpoint at Sembe [50 miles from the border with Cameroon]. An argument started — it was over nothing," she said.

"Then one or two of the policemen started to become angry and began threatening us with their guns. Benjamin grabbed me by the arms and said 'run'. I heard a number of shots and thought 'My God, they are going to kill us'.

"I saw Benjamin fall. I bent down to him and saw the blood running down his back."

Mr Dalton, 29, is believed to have argued with police at the checkpoint over their demand for a bribe in return for safe onward passage. However, a Foreign Office spokesman said it was unclear what sparked the argument or whether it was a Congolese policeman who killed Mr Dalton.

Before leaving Britain yesterday for the capital Brazzaville, the dead man's father said that his son had taken issue with a truculent official at the checkpoint. Bill Dalton, a schools inspector from Peckham in southeast London, said that his daughter-in-law had told him by telephone that a young official with a Kalashnikov was being objectionable and overbearing. "Ben said he was going to report him. He should have known better; he has been on the road before."

Mr Dalton said that his son was chased by policemen after the argument. "Someone else, we do not know who, shot Ben through the heart," he added. He said that his son and daughter-in-law had wanted to spend time travelling overland from London to South Africa before professional commitments and family life tied them to Britain.

It is thought that Ben Dalton, recently qualified as a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons, died instantly after being shot in the chest.

Mr Dalton's brother, Will, 26, said last night that the family were aghast at the stupidity of the killing.He dismissed as "unbelievable" a suggestion that the row with the policeman had been sparked by his brother.

"Ben was an experienced traveller and he was used to paying bribes. He was not silly or naive."

Before leaving for Africa, Mr Dalton had been working at the Royal London Hospital, Whitechapel, east London. He trained there and was made a houseman in 1992. He was later employed there as a general surgeon before leaving in October 1996 to travel.

Robert Ham, consultant general surgeon at the Royal London, said: "He excelled as a keen, caring and expert clinician and was a skilled and committed surgeon with his whole career in front of him."

Mr Dalton had also worked as a senior house officer in the casualty department for the Mid Essex Health Authority in 1993. He then moved to the Oldchurch Hospital, Romford, Essex, from 1993 to 1995.

The Daltons lived in a flat in southeast London, near Tower Bridge. Tom Bingham, the manager, said that although the surgeon was "a very busy man he always had time and a good word for everyone."

The west London specialist travel firm Trailfinders said yesterday that the Daltons had taken out a worldwide insurance policy lasting for eight months.

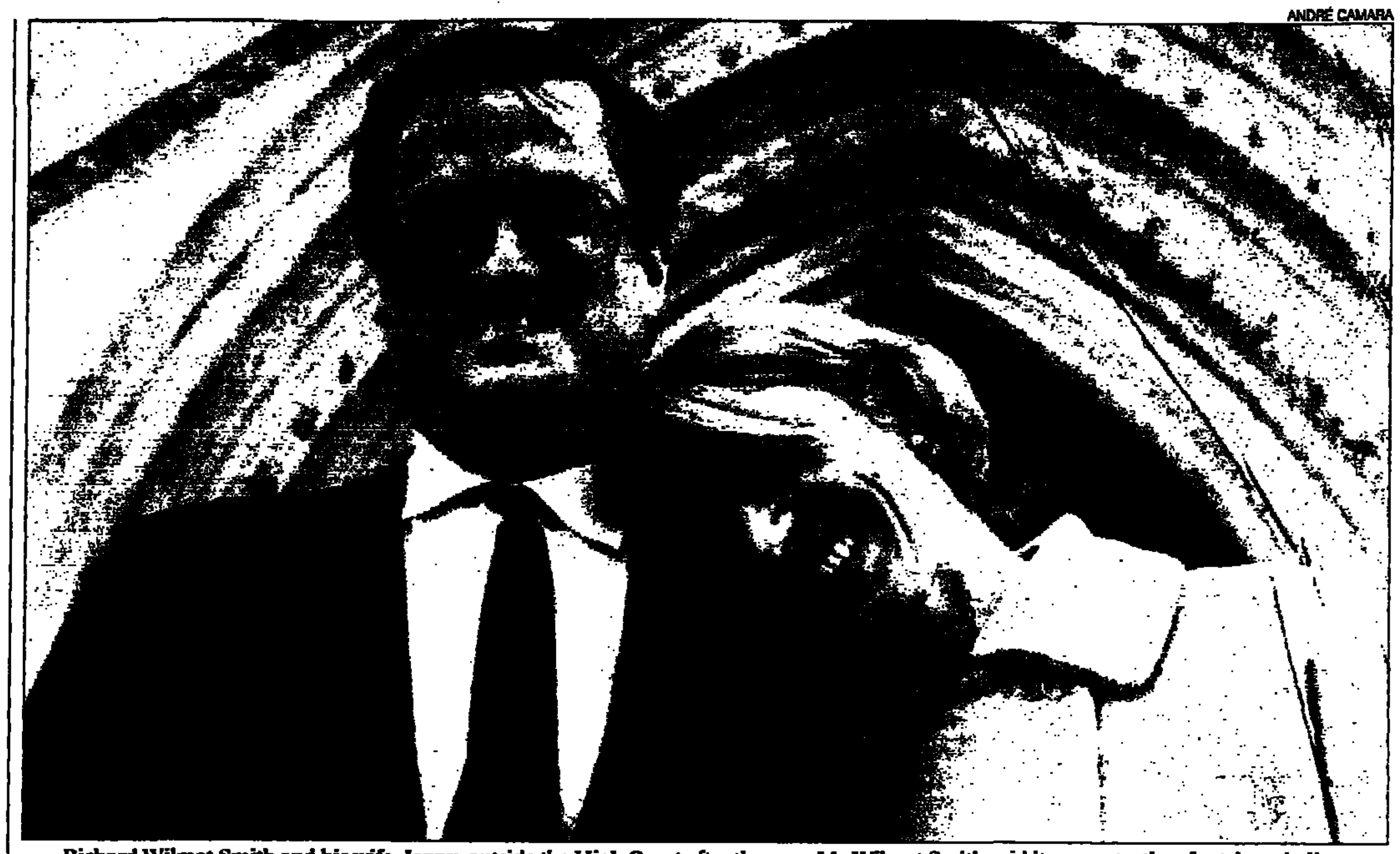
The Foreign Office has called for a full report on Mr Dalton's death from the Congolese authorities. Britain does not have an embassy in the country so the inquiry is being co-ordinated by diplomats in Zaire.

The dead man's widow and parents were last night met by a British honorary consul in Brazzaville. It is unclear when Mr Dalton's body will be released to his family.

The Foreign Office has repeated a warning that tourists could be at risk from bandits in some areas of the Congo. While Brazzaville was "generally quiet", visitors were advised to be very careful on the streets at night.

Benjamin and Diana Dalton on their wedding day

ANDRÉ CAMARA



Richard Wilmot-Smith and his wife, Jenny, outside the High Court after the case. Mr Wilmot-Smith said it was not a time for triumphalism

Telegraph faces £850,000 bill over libel

Paper falsely accused QC and psychic wife of brainwashing solicitor into leaving family

By Michael Horsnell

THE Daily Telegraph last night faced a £350,000 bill for damages plus legal costs of well over £500,000 after a jury found it had libelled a barrister and his psychic healer wife by claiming that they had brainwashed a solicitor into leaving his family.

The High Court jury awarded £250,000 to Richard Wilmot-Smith, QC, 44, a leading commercial barrister, and £100,000 to his wife, Jenny, 48. The couple had sued over an article of March 1995, entitled Dark Side of the New Age, about "a case of alternative therapy that left a happy family in tatters".

The jury also found for the solicitor, Stephen Kirby, 41, a partner in the London firm of Reynolds Porter Chamberlain, who sued the *Telegraph* in a separate related action. His damages will not be assessed until today.

In a case described by George Carman, QC, for the *Telegraph*, as "exposing human nature in the raw", the newspaper alleged that the Wilmot-Smiths had brainwashed Mr Kirby after he sought the psychic healer's help in curing him of agonising headaches. The article stated that ten months after starting sessions with Mrs Wilmot-Smith, Mr Kirby demanded a divorce from his wife Clare, 41, whom he accused of causing his headaches.

The judge had told the jury that they faced the task of decided whether Mrs Wilmot-Smith was acting as a "good samaritan or a wicked witch". Mrs Kirby, who is awaiting a divorce, had claimed in court that Mrs Wilmot-Smith was a charlatan. She claimed that the couple effectively held him hostage at their home in Sevenoaks, Kent.

But Mrs Wilmot-Smith claimed that she merely acted as a befriender. She denied that she had forbidden Mr Kirby to see his wife and said she had urged him to talk to her about their relationship. Her psychic g[illegible]d been used to treat h[illegible]ds of people but since the[illegible] she had been unable to [illegible]m while she sought to clear her name. She and her husband said that the article, which was next to one about cults and sects, robbed them of their integrity.

Patrick Moloney, for Mr Kirby, said that the claim that he was a "hypnotised puppet" was a serious libel of a respected professional. Mr Kirby, from Islington, north London, said that sexual difficulties in his marriage and the birth of his children had led him into three affairs that left him feeling guilty.

Mr Wilmot-Smith, a commercial lawyer and part-time judge who represented himself and his wife in the action, said afterwards: "This case has been very much in the public eye in respect of matters which ought to have been private at all times. It's been a test for everybody, not just us but our opponents and the Kirby family. This is certainly not a time for triumphalism."

Mr Justice Rougier put a stay of execution of £100,000 on Mr Wilmot-Smith's damages and £25,000 on his wife's pending an appeal. Mr Carman said he would argue that the damages should be reduced in line with guidance laid down in the case of Elton John, whose libel award in November 1993 of £350,000 was reduced to £75,000.

A spokesman for the newspaper said: "We very much hope that those members of the Kirby family who have found themselves on opposite sides will in due course be reconciled."

Man killed after row with youths

By Damian Whitworth

A MAN who went to the aid of a disabled woman being taunted by a gang of youths was kicked and beaten to death early yesterday.

Michael Stevenson, 43, who was attending a St Patrick's night celebration at a club in Langley, Berkshire, saw the youths intimidating the woman and told them to stop but was ignored. One witness said that Mr Stevenson, from Langley, headbutted one of the youths, which resulted in further threats.

When he left the club later the gang was waiting outside and attacked him. Mr Stevenson, a security guard who was separated from his wife and had a 15-year-old son, was taken to hospital in Slough but was certified dead on arrival.

Two men aged 20 and 22 from the Slough area were being held in custody last night.

Killer of bullying father walks free

By A Staff Reporter

A MAN who killed his bullying father after the family had been subjected to years of physical and mental abuse walked free from the Old Bailey yesterday. Malcolm McCarthy, 26, stabbed his father Terence, 53, eight times in the chest.

The court was told that Mr McCarthy had threatened to kill his wife Sylvia and daughter Megan, 23, shortly before his death. Judge Denison, QC, the Common Serjeant of London, said McCarthy had acted to protect his sister.

McCarthy admitted manslaughter on the grounds of provocation. He was given a two-year jail sentence, suspended for two years, after the judge said there were "wholly exceptional circumstances".

The court was told that Malcolm McCarthy, who was described as "a gentle giant", tried to avoid arguments with his father. On the night of the killing the father came home drunk and abused his family. Neighbours in Deptford, southeast London, heard him shouting: "Come and get it if you want, I'm going to do you all."

The father then got a knife from his bedroom. Richard Horwell, for the prosecution, said: "Malcolm ran to the kitchen and got himself a knife. He stood in front of Megan and said to his father, 'Drop the knife.' Then he confronted his father face to face in the hallway." He immediately confessed to police.

Judge Denison said: "Plainly you were acting on a sudden impulse, motivated to start with by the enitrely understandable desire to protect your sister from your father. But then you suffered what must have been a momentary but overwhelming loss of control."

Smoking gun bags £5,000 fine

By Shirley English

A DRUNKEN marketing executive who frightened passengers and staff at a remote railway station with his antique shotgun was fined £5,000 yesterday.

Alexander MacKinnon, 27, pointed the double-barrelled weapon, worth about £30,000, at a guard after being ordered off a Glasgow to Fort William train for smoking.

MacKinnon, of Kensington, London, had been on his way to join wealthy friends in the Highlands for a shooting party. Stirling Sheriff Court was told that the guard asked him to leave the train, and threw his luggage after him, when he ignored repeated warnings to stop smoking.

MacKinnon said that he had removed the gun from its leather case and assembled the stock and barrel to check if it had been damaged. The rare gun had belonged to his grandfather.

MacKinnon pleaded guilty to placing people in fear and alarm at Crianlarich station, Stirling. He also admitted being drunk in charge of a weapon. He was fined and ordered to do 200 hours' community service. Sheriff Alexander Eccles said the weapon, currently in police custody, would not be confiscated provided it was passed to another member of the family.

The court was told that MacKinnon learnt to shoot at the age of eight on his father's estate in Oxfordshire. He was not carrying ammunition at the time of the offence. His gun licence may now be revoked.

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CDs are new weapon in supermarket price war

By Adrian Lee

A PRICE war has erupted between supermarkets which are offering big discounts on Top 40 compact discs in an effort to win a larger share of the lucrative music market.

The cost of some chart albums has been cut to less than £10 as chains including Asda, Tesco and Safeway compete to encourage customers to buy their food and music under the same roof.

The aggressive discounting has upset traditional music outlets but has been welcomed by consumer groups. Asda is now the fourth-biggest music retailer and has seen nearly a 25 per cent rise in music sales in the past year. Tesco claims its chart CD prices are the cheapest in the country.

"Marketing opportunities on the food side are more difficult, so supermarkets are looking at other areas," an Asda spokesman said. Its biggest stores now stock more than 2,000 titles and it is introducing signing sessions by bands and listening posts where customers can hear albums before they buy.

A Tesco spokesman said: "We are taking CD sales extremely seriously. All our research shows that customers now want to buy CDs, books and videos while they are doing their food shopping." The store said yesterday that it would cut the price of the Spice Girls album *Spice* by £2 to £10.99 after learning that Asda was charging £10.99. This week Safeway is offering two Top 10 CDs for £20.

A source at one high street record shop said: "There is no way they can be making money on some of these prices. The supermarkets are just going for chart stuff so ultimately it will be bad for the music industry because some smaller shops could be forced out of business." Another specialist store said: "The supermarkets are being irresponsible. It is worrying for us."

Shops such as Virgin and Our Price emphasised the range of albums they stocked. A typical Our Price shop has 10,000 titles. A spokesman for Virgin and Our Price added: "You are not going to get specialist knowledge from a Tesco check-out girl."

Phil Evans, senior policy officer for the Consumers' Association, welcomed the price battle. "Supermarkets are to be congratulated for being so aggressive on price. The record companies and high street record shops have been allowed to get away with high prices for too long."

He said there was no evidence that supermarket price-cutting in the United States had harmed the music industry there. US prices are generally two thirds of those in Britain.

In 1994 the Monopolies and Mergers Commission cleared record companies of overcharging and collusion. The companies say the price difference in Britain and the US is comparable to other goods.

The CD trade has grown to £800 million a year since its launch in 1983. The retailer receives £4.05 from a CD costing £14.99; the record company gets £5.07; the manufacturer £1.05; producer 46p; publisher 46p; artist 98p; composer 68p; VAT £2.24.

HOW PRICES COMPARE

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Tesco	£13.99
Safeway	£15.99
Woolworths	£14.99
Virgin	£13.49
HMV, New York	£10.85
FNAC, Paris	£15.90

Spice, the Spice Girls

Asda	£10.99
Tesco	£12.99 (red to £10.99)
Safeway	£12.99
Woolworths	£12.99
Virgin	£13.99
HMV, New York	£8.30
FNAC, Paris	£12.73

MARTIN McCULLOUGH

The Restorick family stand in silence at the checkpoint where Stephen was shot dead by an IRA sniper

Family visit spot where soldier died

THE parents of Stephen Restorick, the young soldier who was shot dead by an IRA sniper in Northern Ireland last month, yesterday visited the spot where he was killed (Nicholas Watt writes).

John and Rita Restorick fought back tears as they laid flowers at the checkpoint in the village of Bessbrook, Co Armagh, where their son died on the evening of February 12. Accompanied by relatives, including their other son, Mark, and two army officers, Mr and Mrs Restorick walked hand-in-hand to the checkpoint where 50 floral tributes have been tied to a fence in memory of the 23-year-old lance bombardier.

After standing in silence for a few minutes, Mrs Restorick stepped forward to lay a simple spray of flowers with the message: "Dear Son and Brother. We miss you now and forever. Love Mum, Dad and Mark." The family, from Peterborough, Cambridgeshire, then walked along the road out of Bessbrook and looked over the hillside from where the IRA sniper is believed to have fired.

Later at the army base they attended a service to dedicate a memorial to their son. Forty members of the soldier's Eagle Battery from the 3rd Battalion Royal Horse Artillery joined them. The Rev John Ritson, the army chaplain, said the presence of troops in the Province allowed people to live without intimidation. "Stephen's life was lost actually fighting for the freedom of others."

Train drivers told to ignore body to prevent delays

By A Staff Reporter

THE body of a young woman was left lying on a railway track for nearly four hours so that rush-hour services would not be delayed. Up to 20 train drivers were ordered to take their trains over her.

Yesterday the train drivers' union Aslef said that their members were "traumatised" by the incident on Great Eastern line between Shenfield and Southend in Essex. The union accused the rail operator of being motivated by the need to avoid penalty payments for delays.

However, Great Eastern said that the decision to keep trains running was taken in co-operation with police and Railtrack in the interests of rush-hour travellers. In the Commons, Gwyneth Dunwoody, a Labour member of the Transport Select Committee, called for a government statement on the incident, which she described as "barbarism".

The woman had been knocked down by a train at about 5.15am on February 6. Her body was removed at about 9am.

Revealing the incident yesterday, Lew Adams the Aslef general secretary, said in the union's *Locomotive Journal*: "Some 15 to 20 drivers had the traumatic experience of being instructed to pass over her body, lying in the 4ft between the rails with just a cover thrown over it. All this was done to preserve profit and avoid incurring penalty payments if the service was delayed.

"Just how sick and uncaring can this new regime of the privatised railway become?"

A Great Eastern spokesman said: "There was no question of any profit motive being involved in this. The decision to pass above the body was taken by ourselves, Railtrack and the police in the interests of rush-hour travellers who otherwise would have faced very severe delays. The decision was in keeping with the old British Rail rule book regulation concerning bodies on the line. Any affected drivers could have completed special forms, but so far none has been submitted."

Birmingham Six sue MP Evans

By Richard Ford, Home Correspondent

THE Birmingham Six issued a writ for libel yesterday on the Conservative MP David Evans over comments he allegedly made in an interview with sixth formers in his constituency.

Benedict Birnberg, solicitor for the six men, said they had been severely distressed by remarks that appeared to question their innocence of terrorist incidents.

He added: "We are seeking damages and an injunction preventing him from saying these things again."

Mr Birnberg said that he had written to Mr Evans earlier this month, but, when no reply was received, a writ was issued and served on Mr Evans's solicitors. The scale of the damages to be sought would depend on Mr Evans's attitude from this point, he said.

Mr Evans, Conservative MP for Welwyn and Hatfield, North Hertfordshire, talked to pupils last month at Stanborough School in Welwyn Garden City.

During his address he reportedly criticised John Major as "vindictive and not forgiving" and labelled Virginia Bottomley, the Heritage Secretary, as "dead from the neck upwards", a remark for which he later apologised.

The Birmingham Six — Gerry Hunter, Paddy Hill, Hugh Callaghan, Richard McIlkenny, Billy Power and Johnny Walker — spent 17 years in prison until the Court of Appeal quashed their convictions in 1991.

Their lawyers are seeking a judicial review to finalise compensation claims for the time they spent in jail wrongly convicted of the Birmingham pub bombings.

Last week it emerged that Mr Hunter had been offered £510,000. Mr Birnberg said: "Their compensation has still not been settled, although substantial interim payments have been made."

Gasworks bomb man has case sent to Appeal Court

By Richard Ford
Home Correspondent

THE case of a petty thief serving 16 years for his part in an IRA bomb attack is to be reviewed by the Court of Appeal after new evidence was sent to the Home Office.

John Kinsella, who is in Full Sutton top-security jail near York, has served three years of a sentence imposed for storing explosives for an IRA cell that blew up the Warrington gasworks in 1993. Kinsella, 52, has protested his innocence ever since his conviction in 1994 for possession of Semtex. He had hidden the explosives for his nephew, Denis Kinsella, and Pairic MacFhloinn under a place for bonfires on a friend's allotment, for £200.

John Kinsella, from Nottingham, who was originally from Dublin and had lived in Britain for 30 years, claimed that he had not known that the bag he hid contained 7.5kg of Semtex, and guns and ammunition, which was why he buried them under a place used for bonfires. He says that he had thought the bag contained silverware.

He was originally jailed for 20 years for his part in the bomb attack but that was reduced on appeal to 16. The latest hearing of the case is expected in the autumn.

Michael McCloskey, his solicitor, said yesterday that new material had been put to the Home Office relating to whether Kinsella was aware that what he hid was explosives.

Lawyers will also argue that a photograph of Kinsella's son standing in front of a plaque commemorating the death of Louis Scallion, an IRA man, shot in 1972, should not have been used at the trial as it was prejudicial.

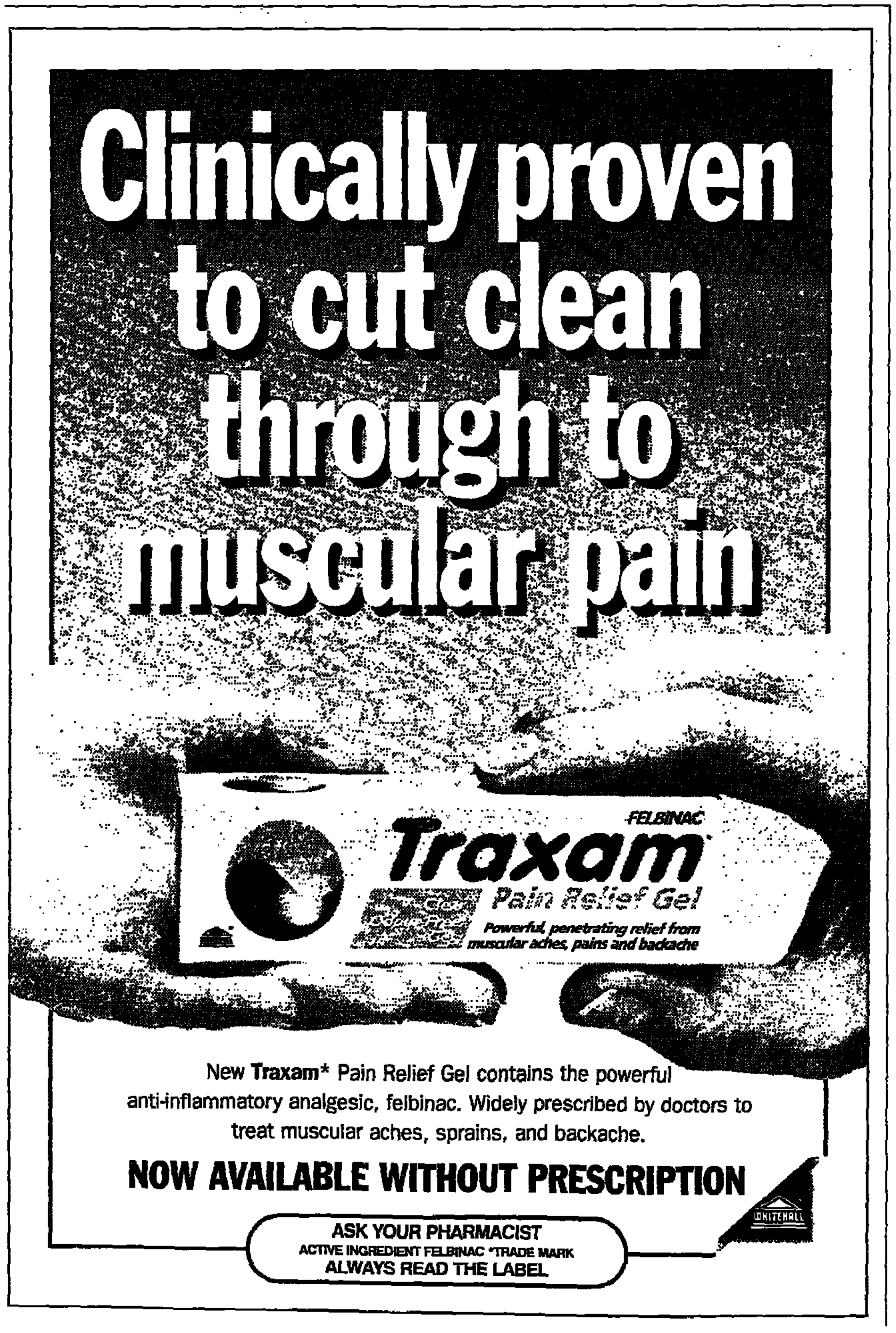
Mr McCloskey said: "The picture had no political meaning for Mr Kinsella and was just for background to link him with the IRA. It is the kind of picture you would see in many nationalist homes in Ireland."

Yesterday Paddy Loftus, the leader of the campaign to have the case referred to the Appeal Court said: "We have always strived to expose the truth and now we are happy that Michael Howard [the Home Secretary] has made the decision to refer this case back to the Court of Appeal and look at all the facts again. All we have asked is for the full facts of the case to be put in front of the courts. Mr Howard has facilitated this process and we are grateful."

Two years ago Kinsella's sentence was reduced on the grounds that the original term did not reflect the fact that he was unconnected with the IRA. At the appeal, a letter from MacPhloinn was given as evidence. It said Kinsella had been enlisted to support the cell because he was a "petty criminal who would do anything for money".

MacPhloinn, an IRA bombmaker, is serving 35 years for leading the bombing mission that devastated Warrington gasworks. Denis Kinsella is serving 25 years. MacPhloinn, 43, a researcher with a firm of lawyers in Dublin, had prepared the bombs in a flat in Nottingham where Denis Kinsella lived.

John Kinsella: "did not know about Semtex"



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Abusive episode lands Australian neighbour in court

By A Staff Reporter

AN Australian who moved to England in search of a country idyll forgot the advice of his country's successful soap opera — that good neighbours should be good friends — and abused them instead.

Ollie Kingspark delivered angry tirades over the garden fence, posted offensive placards complaining of racism, and kicked in the door of his rented 17th-century cottage in the hamlet of Turleigh, Wiltshire.

Kongspark, 45, his wife Georgina, 43 and their two children emigrated to England in 1995 to open a lingerie shop in Bath and moved into a honey-coloured hillside property in Turleigh, population 120. Within weeks they had fallen foul of the Curtis family next door after complaining about their bonfire.

Kongspark is said to have sworn at the Curtis children, disrupted their barbecue and erected a sign saying "Australian family discriminated against by racist village". When Malcolm Curtis called to try to resolve the feud, Kongspark swore and called him a "wimp and pommie" and then pushed him.

West Wiltshire magistrates were told yesterday that such was Kongspark's behaviour during the barbecue that parents refused to allow their children to stay in tents in the garden overnight. Four months later the Kongsparks were evicted from their property but returned and kicked in the door.

Kongspark, who admitted two public order offences, criminal damage and assaulting his neighbour, was ordered to serve 100 hours' community service, pay £487 compensation for damage and £80 costs.

James Morton, for Kongspark, said the couple were desperate to return to Australia and denied ever hurling abuse at their neighbours. "Mr Kongspark incurred severe racial discrimination because he and his wife are Australian."

Kongspark, who now lives in Upper Borough Walls, Bath, Somerset, said: "I came to England seeking the country life: the idyllic type of thing me and my wife thought existed in the areas where we had been living.

"Large numbers of people didn't want us here. I come from a multicultural nation where we accept other people — but you English are the most xenophobic people I have come across."

Sir Geoffrey Lofthouse, MP

A Diary report (March 13) claimed Sir Geoffrey Lofthouse was to retire as MP for Pontefract and Castleford to make way for Alan Howarth when the general election was called. A news report on Monday repeated the suggestion of his impending retirement. Both reports were incorrect. We accept that Sir Geoffrey has no intention of standing down, and apologise for the embarrassment he has been caused.

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Cricket boss stumped as behind is caught in beach competition

By Stephen Farrell

Bett: "What people do in private life is up to them"

MEMBERS of the country's oldest first-class cricket club whose eyes strayed from *Wisden* in the off-season were surprised to find the nude figure of their beleaguered club secretary gracing the pages of *British Naturism* magazine.

On the eve of Sussex County Cricket Club's annual general meeting, Nigel Bett's naked appearance in the glossy quarterly has distracted attention from his efforts to stop the club committee being swept away by a new regime.

Mr Bett, 57, posed for his wife Barbara on a beach in Fuerteventura, Canary Islands, wearing just a strategically placed black-and-white scarf. They entered the picture in an annual British Naturism competition offering £100, £50 and £25 prizes for the best photograph by a reader.

Although they failed to land a prize, the picture proved ideal to illustrate an article by another naturist on the joys of strolling naked among the island's drifting sand dunes and shrub-covered hillocks.

The chances of identification were slim. Mr Betts appeared from the rear only, was not named, and the magazine has a circulation of just 12,000 members who pay the £20 family or £16 single subscription. However, one keen-eyed reader spotted his wife Barbara's name in the caption and alerted the *Brighton Evening Argus* newspaper, which featured the story prominently under the headline: "Cheeky pic leaves Nigel blushing."

Mr Bett admitted all, telling the paper: "This is a picture of me. It was taken by my wife. It is a place where people can sunbathe with their clothes off. I think what people do in their private lives is up to them."

Yesterday he did not turn up for work at the club, where weightier matters were under discussion. The former Sussex fast bowler Tony Pigott is trying to overthrow the board with a motion of no confidence, which will be raised at today's meeting and formally discussed at an extraordinary general meeting on April 8.

Sussex, founded in 1839, has never won the county championship and was last runner-up in 1981. Its committee has long faced accusations of mishandling players and the club has recently fallen into crisis with the loss of six senior cricketers during the winter.

Mr Pigott said he had no plans to raise the nude picture at either meeting: "There are more serious matters facing Sussex, such as achieving the vote of no confidence and getting new faces and new ideas on the committee."

However, one angry member despaired at yet another round of unfavourable publicity: "This is the last thing we need. He should not be entering nude pictures in magazine competitions. He is supposed to be an ambassador for Sussex County Cricket Club."

Robert Griffiths, the club's marketing director, said: "I am not aware that we have received any complaints from our members. Our primary concern is to prepare for the meeting."

County in turmoil, page 48

ANDRÉ CAMARA

Pete Townshend leaving the High Court yesterday

The Who guitarist clashes with lawyer for Bowbelle

Wells: has been unable to work since tragedy

PETE TOWNSHEND, leader of The Who, was accused yesterday of exaggerating the potential of a musician whose career was destroyed by the *Marchioness* riverboat disaster in order to boost her claim for compensation (Kathryn Knight writes).

Josephine Wells, 37, has been unable to work as a saxophonist since being trapped underwater for three minutes when the pleasure cruiser collided with the sand dredger *Bowbelle* on the Thames in August 1989.

Mr Townshend, 53, told the High Court that Ms Wells was an "absolutely exceptional" musician, "the best soprano saxophone player I have ever heard in pop", and that she could have expected to earn up to £3,000 a week.

But Grahame Aldous, for the owners of the *Bowbelle*, said the guitarist's estimate of Ms Wells's earnings was the "best possible scenario". He said: "You are known as a man who gilds the lily, as a man whose statements do not always tie to the fact of the matter."

Mr Townshend replied angrily: "I may have had something of a reputation in the past but I am making this statement under oath. I am 53 years old. I am a mature individual. I'm aware of what I'm telling you. I did not contribute to my biography under oath otherwise I would spend my life under oath.

"I am somebody with the experience of the best possible scenario. This is always a possible reality to someone who is as unique and special as is Jo."

Mr Townshend was giving evidence on the second day of a damages claim by Ms Wells against the owners of the *Marchioness* and *Bowbelle*. The court has been told that Ms Wells suffered severe depression, post-traumatic stress disorder and had turned to alcohol since the disaster. In the 1980s she had toured with The Communards and Tears for Fears.

Mr Townshend said yesterday: "Jo really stuck in my mind. She was absolutely exceptional both technically and imaginatively. She was the best soprano saxophone player I have ever heard in pop, an unassuming figure who burst into life when she was playing."

Since working with her on a session for an album in 1986, he told Mr Justice Kay, he had been quite intimidated by how good Ms Wells was and had never forgotten her. "I was constantly looking out for her, I always wanted to know what she was up to," he said.

He added that he had written 20 hit records with The Who in a career that began in 1963, and had become a good judge of musicianship.

The owners of *Marchioness* and *Bowbelle* accept liability but are contesting the amount of damages, claiming Ms Wells was burnt out before the accident and had not played professionally for 18 months. The case continues.

Film censor gives green light to Crash

By Dalya Alberge, Arts Correspondent

A CONTROVERSIAL film which explores the sexual gratification derived from seeing bodies mutilated in car crashes will be shown in Britain. David Cronenberg's *Crash*, inspired by J.G. Ballard's novel, received the green light yesterday from the British Board of Film Censors, which awarded it an "18" certificate, without cuts.

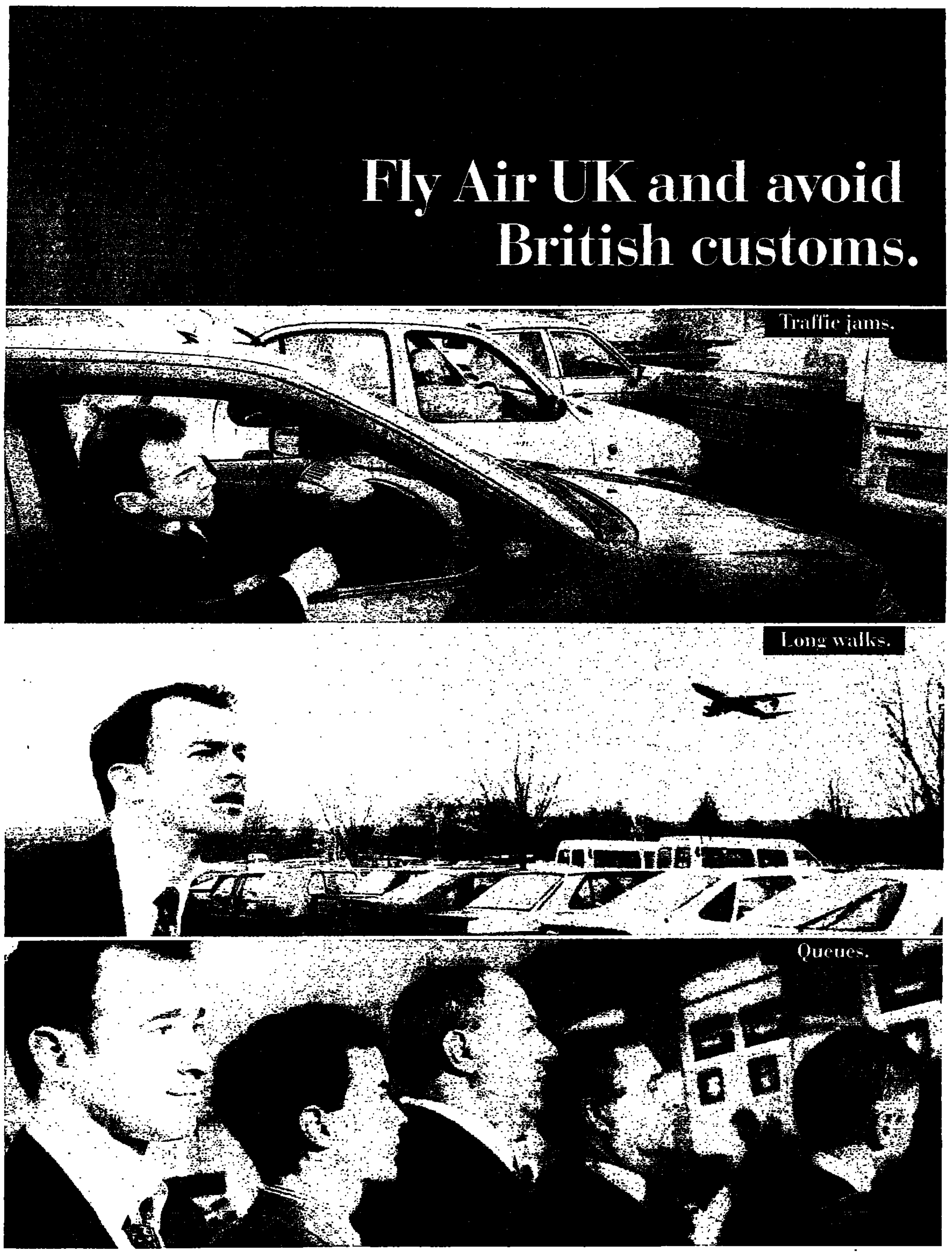
The board went to great lengths to address fears about the effect that the violence and sexual perversion in the film could have on young, impressionable minds. James Ferman, the BBFC director, said that they had consulted a forensic psychologist "on the question of harm, particularly the link between sex and disability", and had a special screening for disabled people.

The BBFC, which has been criticised for awarding certificates to films such as *The Last Temptation of Christ*, *Reservoir Dogs*, *Natural Born Killers* and *Kids*, also sought the advice of a QC with extensive experience in prosecuting and defending obscenity cases: "Our legal adviser took the view that, rather than sympathising or identifying with the attitudes or tastes of the characters in this film, the average viewer would in the end be repelled by them, and would reject the values and sexual proclivities displayed."

The film's distributors, Columbia TriStar, said: "We are thrilled that the BBFC has finally given *Crash* the certificate. The film has opened all over the world without any cuts." An opening date has not yet been set.

CORRECTION

Julianna Selby, wife of Ralph Selby (obituary, yesterday) did not survive him, but died in 1994.



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NHS under fire for 'needless' Caesareans

By Jeremy Laurance
Health Correspondent

WOMEN are being subjected to *unnecessary* Caesarean and forceps deliveries which cause them injury and waste resources, a health service watchdog says today.

Surgical and medical intervention in labour varies greatly among hospitals and is often driven by non-clinical considerations such as fear of litigation or convenience, the Audit Commission says.

An investigation of maternity services by the commission, which included a survey of more than 2,000 mothers, found that more than 80 per cent were pleased with the care they received. Each delivery costs £1,700, a total bill for the NHS of £1.1 billion a year.

Shortcomings remain, however. The commission said that expectant women were not like other patients because they were generally in good health and often had firm views about the care they wanted. Many women felt they were not given enough information about tests they underwent during pregnancy and did not have an adequate say in decisions about their care and the delivery.

The Audit Commission said that most NHS trusts offered too many antenatal checks to women with low-risk pregnancies who could be seen more cheaply in local clinics, which the women preferred. Of the 13 NHS trusts surveyed, two thirds provided more than the nine checks recommended for first-time mothers with low-risk pregnancies, costing an extra £10 million.

One in four of the women said they had been left alone at a time during labour when they were worried. Trusts argue that the fluctuating workload makes it difficult to ensure enough midwives are available at all times but the commission says flexible staffing is the key.

The commission found Caesarean rates varied from 11 to 18 per cent of deliveries among the trusts studied and instrumental deliveries, such as forceps, from 5 to 13 per cent. It says that Caesareans, which have doubled in the past 20 years, have "increased to a level that concerns clinicians". Many trusts make little use of the ventouse (suction) method, which causes less pain and injury to the mother than forceps.

The commission says: "The high levels of some procedures suggest they are being carried out on a routine basis ... While medical factors are a major influence on levels of intervention, non-medical factors (such as fear of litigation, professional norms and convenience) play at least as great if not a greater part."

Postnatal care received the most critical comment from the mothers. A quarter said they were dissatisfied with the length of time they were kept in hospital, most because they felt it was too long but some because they were not ready to be discharged.

Dr Jonathan Boyce, the Audit Commission's director of health studies, said: "Once the baby is out and well, hospitals are into a consumer choice area. Mothers feel they ought to be in charge but they aren't."

The Royal College of Obstetricians denied that the high Caesarean rate was due solely to non-medical factors and said it was a "more subtle" problem related to the balance of risks.

Scientists find gene of killer disease

By Nigel Hawkes
Science Editor

THE gene responsible for a rare disease that causes rapid mental decline and death in early childhood has been located by scientists at University College London.

Batten's disease came to prominence in 1993 when the parents of Rhys Daniels, then 2, threatened to sue the NHS over the closure of a unit where he had been promised a bone marrow transplant. The boy was subsequently given two transplants at another NHS centre but they failed to cure the disease.

The boy suffers from the late infantile form of Batten's disease, of which there are believed to be between 30 and 40 cases in Britain at any one time. The scientists analysed blood samples from families affected by the disease and identified areas on two chromosomes where the genes responsible lie.

The next step, which is to identify precisely the genes, should make possible earlier and more reliable antenatal checks on parents known to be carriers of the disease.

Details of the discovery are given in *Human Molecular Genetics*. A member of the team, Dr Julie Sharp, believes that the findings may have wider implications for understanding mental decline. "Our research will provide further detail on the development of both the brain and the nervous system and may provide an insight into the ageing process," she said.

Rhys's father, Barry, said yesterday: "It is a huge leap forward, and now the concentration must be on finding a cure and saving the children."

Keyhole pioneer loses plea to practise

By Lin Jenkins

A PIONEER of keyhole surgery techniques who was struck off the medical register after "repeated catastrophic failure as a surgeon" failed yesterday in his attempt to resume practising.

Nicholas Siddle, 47, from Limpsfield Chart, Surrey, sought reinstatement at a hearing of the General Medical Council, saying that he was "ashamed that standards of care to some of my patients fell grossly below the standards the public is entitled to expect". He had suffered personal problems when his premature twins died and then endured a bitter divorce but he had sought psychiatric help and learnt to be less arrogant.

The former consultant in obstetrics and gynaecology at University College Hospital, London, was struck off in 1995 after a series of failures. Over 15 months he damaged the bowels, bladders, ureters and wombs of seven women. Three operations involved laparoscopic techniques at the vanguard of keyhole surgery.

After the case had been considered for over an hour, Dr Jeremy Lee-Potter, chairman of the committee, told Mr Siddle simply that he would not be restored to the register. He is free to re-apply at a later date.

Dorrell orders investigation into children's deaths

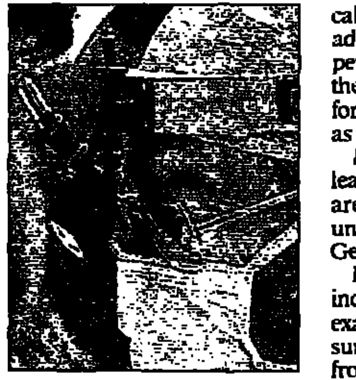
By Jeremy Laurance, Health Correspondent

AN INQUIRY was ordered yesterday into the heart surgery service for children run by an NHS trust after a report disclosed that one surgeon had a death rate four times higher than his colleagues.

Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, announced the inquiry into the Bristol Royal Infirmary after a review published yesterday criticised the "poor" surgical performance of James Wisheart.

Mr Wisheart, former medical director of the United Bristol Hospitals Trust, which includes the infirmary, announced his retirement from the NHS on Monday, 24 hours before publication of the review. He voluntarily stoped operating last December and had resigned as medical director.

The review by independent experts of 2,500 patients operated on by the surgical team at the infirmary from 1993-95, found Mr Wisheart's performance was "signicantly poorer" than his colleagues and his "operative mortality figures" were too high.



Wisheart: report found high mortality figures

The review recommended that he should not resume operating. It disclosed that 12.2 per cent of patients who had a coronary bypass operation performed by Mr Wisheart died within 30 days compared with the 2.6 per cent average mortality rate of his colleagues.

The review came after concern over the hospital's record on child heart surgery after it was revealed that nine of thirteen babies died when undergoing controversial "switch" operations — involving the transposition of the two main arteries to the heart — and other surgical techniques to repair heart defects at the hospital between 1990 and 1995.

Hugh Ross, chief executive of the trust, said the review had given a "clear vote of confidence" in the trust's clinical audit system and in the adult cardiac service. Its performance was "in line with the published average figures for UK cardiac surgical units as a whole".

Mr Wisheart and his colleague Janardan Dhasmana are the subject of complaints under investigation by the General Medical Council.

Mr Dorrell said that the inquiry into the trust, to examine the specialist cardiac surgical services for children from 1990 to 1995, would not begin until the GMC's inquiry was complete.

NEWS TEAM INTERNATIONAL

Gareth Dixon, 12, who has cerebral palsy as a result of difficulties at his birth in Hereford County Hospital, with his mother, Elaine, yesterday after he was awarded £1.47 million damages at the High Court in Birmingham

Mental health services for young cannot cope

By Jeremy Laurance
Health Correspondent

THE Department of Health was sharply criticised by MPs yesterday for failing to ensure proper help is provided to children and adolescents with mental health problems such as eating disorders.

The Select Committee on Health says that services for young people who are mentally ill are failing to meet the need. Mental health problems are growing but services remain "patchy" and unable to cope.

It says the Health Department's ignorance of the number or geographical distribution of beds for those suffering from eating disorders is "unacceptable". At least 1 per cent of girls aged between 15 and 19 are severely affected and one in ten of the sufferers dies of starvation or suicide. "The NHS Executive cannot begin to design, still less to implement, a strategy to ensure an adequate regional distribution of services if it does not collect data on current provision," it says.

The committee was concerned that although the department supported the principle of a four-tier approach to children's mental health problems, with services ranging from general advice from family doctors to specialised in-patient treatment, it had no idea to what extent that had been implemented.

It says the Health Department, in its *Health of the Nation* strategy, should include targets for reducing the suicide rate among young people.

However, the Health Department was congratulated for giving more prominence to issues of child and adolescent mental health in recent years and for issuing guidance to health and local authorities.

The Mental Health Foundation said that more investment in mental health services for the young was needed in order to avoid "massive problems for society in the future".

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Elvis soap seller rocks Memphis

East Ender overturns US company's monopoly on musical icon

By Emma Wilkins

ANDRE CAMARA

Two for the show: Sid Shaw, left, and Leyton Sommors outside the High Court yesterday. Mr Shaw said the judge was clearly an Elvis fan

A FORMER barrow boy yesterday won his High Court battle against America's Elvis Presley industry over the right to sell novelty soaps and trinkets to fans in Britain.

Sid Shaw, 50, who runs an Elvis Presley memorabilia business from a shop in Shoreditch, east London, said he was delighted that his "David and Goliath" battle was over after 14 years of litigation.

Mr Justice Laddie, sitting in the Chancery Division, ruled that Elvis Presley Enterprises Incorporated (EPEI), of Memphis, Tennessee, was not entitled to register three trademarks to sell toiletry memorabilia in Britain. The judge, who liked Mr Shaw's Elvis Presley soap (£1) so much that he took a bar home during the two-day hearing, ruled that EPEI did not own "in any meaningful sense the words Elvis or Elvis Presley".

After the ruling, Mr Shaw said: "Elvis is up there somewhere smiling today. This shows that the little guys can take on the big guys and still win. The bigger they are, the harder they fall.

"Mr Justice Laddie is clearly an Elvis Presley fan. He should be made honorary president of the fan club."

Mr Shaw, who worked in Petticoat Lane market as a boy before reading economics at Essex University, founded his company, Elvisly Yours, in 1978 and faced his first legal action from EPEI in 1983 over the rights to sell memorabilia in America. "I have had nothing but grief from these people for 14 years but now I've got British justice," he said. "They think they are omnipotent because they have all the money, but if you have guts and determination and believe in your fight, then you can win."

EPEI, which is the legal successor to Elvis Presley under American law, was yesterday considering whether to appeal. Peter Prescott, for EPEI, had argued that when people bought souvenirs of their heroes they wanted them to come from a "genuine source".

The judge said that Presley would not be entitled to the sole rights to his name even if he were still alive. "He would not be entitled to stop a fan from naming his son, his dog or goldfish, his car or his house 'Elvis' or 'Elvis Presley', simply by reason of the fact that it was the name given to him at birth by his parents. There is nothing akin to copyright in a name."

The judge added: "Just as Elvis Presley did not own his name so as to be able to prevent all and any uses of it by third parties, so Enterprises can have no greater rights. Similarly, Presley did not own his appearance. For example, during his life he could not prevent a fan from having a tattoo put on his chest which looked like him."

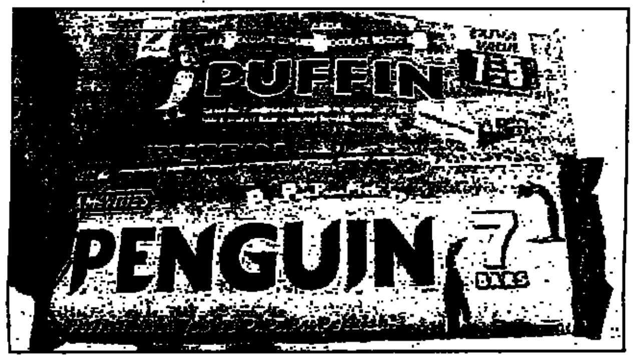
The judgment overturned a Trademark Registry ruling in February last year which granted EPEI the trademarks Elvis, Elvis Presley, and Elvis Presley as a signature on toiletry goods in Britain.

Mr Shaw was wearing his favourite Elvis Presley watch (£29.95) for the hearing. A picture of Elvis appears on the face of the "magic" watch, then disappears, every 15 seconds. It is one of 400 items, including *Are You Lonesome Tonight?* knickers, which Mr Shaw supplies to retail outlets throughout the world including Blackpool Pleasure Beach, the Elvis Presley Inn in Jerusalem, and Madame Tussaud's.

Mr Shaw, who has sold goods worth £3 million between 1979 and 1991, now hopes to increase his turnover to £5 million a year. "Maybe I can float Elvisly Yours on the stock market," he said. Before returning to his shop, he stopped to embrace Leyton Sommors, 62, an Elvis Presley impersonator from Manchester who said it was his "tragedy" to look like the singer. "If you look like someone you have to give up your own life," Mr Sommors said.

Asda's wings are clipped in Penguin biscuit battle

By Daniel McGrory



Pecking order: the Puffin is too similar to the Penguin

ITS wings clipped, the Puffin limped on to the endangered species list yesterday after being defeated by the Penguin in a fight for nesting rights on shop shelves.

Their seven-day spat in the High Court had caused much amusement, Mr Justice Walker conceded yesterday, but he emphasised that a multi-million-pound business was at stake in the battle between rival chocolate biscuits. He ruled that the supermarket chain Asda was guilty of passing off its cheaper own-brand Puffin biscuit as having something to do with United Biscuits' 60-year-old best-selling Penguin brand.

Puffins may yet take wing again as Asda intends to appeal. The judge ruled it could continue to use the brand name but would have to change its packaging.

The judge cleared Asda of infringing United Biscuits' registered trademarks — the word Penguin and pictures of the bird — giving Puffin-lovers a partial victory. He agreed to give Asda a 35-day stay of execution pending an appeal, after hearing that the supermarket has five weeks' stock of biscuits, worth £350,000, to sell.

Thumbing through the 36-page written judgment punctuated with cartoon penguins and puffins, an Asda spokesman made it clear that even if the appeal is lost the Puffin will not vanish but will take on new plumage.

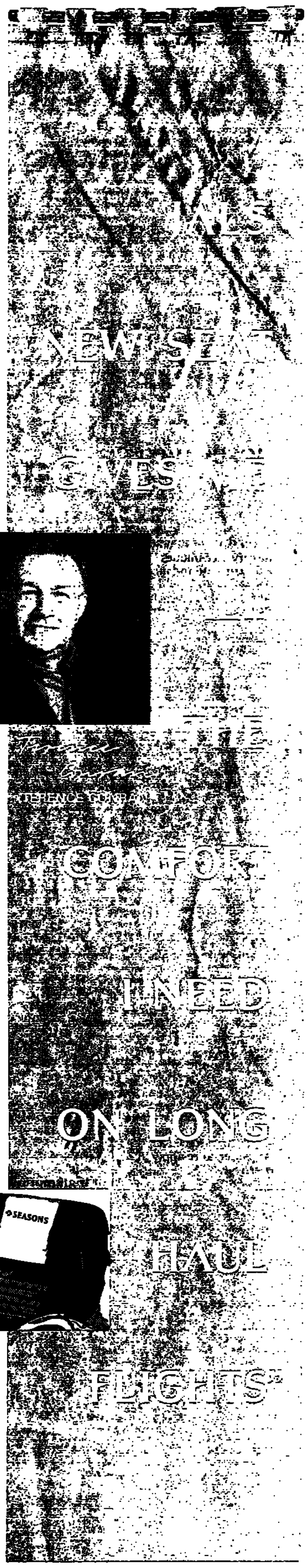
The judge admitted that he had to consult ornithological handbooks in making clear his distinction between the birds, referring to the penguin as ungainly and fat and doubting "whether the average member of the public knows much more about the puffin that it is a seabird with a multicoloured beak".

He agreed that "the cartoon puffin could be mistaken for a cartoon penguin", but added: "Had the Asda product been called, for example, 'Bison' (to take another name from the original list of possibilities), with a cartoon picture of a brown woolly bison on the packaging, then these proceedings could not possibly succeed."

There was lengthy discussion over the wording of Penguin's famous stuttering slogan — "P... P... P... Pick up a Penguin" — as Iain Purvis, for Asda, insisted that the supermarket had never intended to imitate the style in its promotions.

The judge granted an injunction against continued passing-off by Asda after concluding that the Puffin's "packaging and get-up was deceptively similar to those of Penguin", although he did not believe this was intentional.

Outside the High Court, barristers had to step aside as two lifesize costumed figures of the rival birds shook hands for television cameras before both sides flew off to prepare to do battle again.



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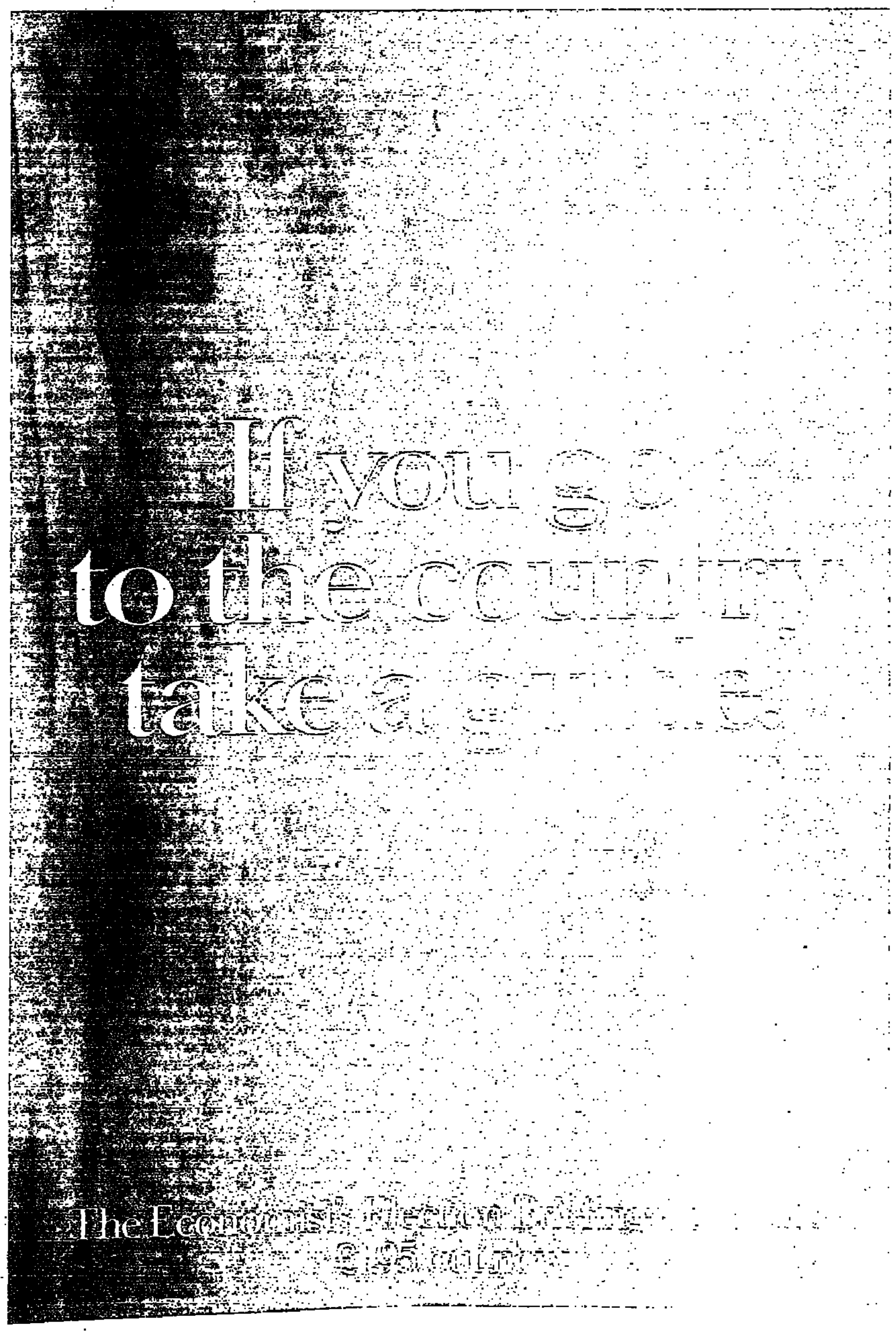
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Keep your eye on the ball...

See following pages for details

Leaders to face the nation in series of screen tests

By Alexandra Frean, Media Correspondent

THE leaders of the three main political parties may not yet have agreed to take part in a televised debate, but they are making sure that no section of the television audience is ignored in a series of appearances on the BBC.

Last night the BBC confirmed that John Major, Tony Blair and Paddy Ashdown will each be interviewed individually on *Panorama* by David Dimbleby in the run-up to the election. The three leaders will also appear on *Question Time*, which no serving Prime Minister or Leader of the Opposition has previously agreed to do.

However, Chris Capron of Capron Productions, which makes *Question Time* for the BBC, said that the the format would be changed for the three special editions. Mr Major, Mr Blair and Mr Ashdown, who has been on the programme before, will appear individually, rather than on a panel, taking questions from the studio audience alone.

To try to attract first-time voters, the leaders have also agreed to appear individually on Radio 1.

Peter Jay, the BBC's economics editor, will present a programme called *Debate for Chancellor*, which will bring Kenneth Clarke, Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor and Malcolm Bruce, the Liberal Democrat Treasury spokesman, head to head. The three will also appear, in turn, on Channel 4's *Power and the People*, where they will face questioning from 300 members of the public.

Mr Clarke has agreed to do four televised debates with his rivals next month. The Chancellor is quite happy to take on both Mr Brown and Mr Bruce. Mr Brown has been less accommodating, agreeing to only two programmes. His aides say that, as Labour's campaign supremo, he is unlikely to have time to do more.

Mr Clarke has also agreed in principle to a three-way debate on BBC 1's *On the Record* on April 20, and an independent production, *Power and the People*, to be shown on Channel 4 on April 27, where the three Treasury men will be given a slot each and questioned by the audience. Details are being finalised.

Sports and showbusiness personalities will get their chance to question the leaders in a programme presented by the comedian Dennis Pennis, *The Enormous Election with Dennis Pennis*. The interviews will be intercut with footage of Pennis walking through the Commons linking popular programmes with key issues.

Tony Hall, chief executive of news at the BBC, said that the BBC hoped to help people to make sense of the election. "In a general election, which will rely heavily on communicating via the media, particularly the electronic media, it is crucial that the electorate feels its trust in BBC values of impartiality and accuracy is justified. We pledge to get beyond the soundbite and the theatrics of party election management and reach the real issues that count with our audiences," he said.

BBC Radio 4's *Election Call* phone-in programme will offer up a politician a day to the electorate's questions, while Radio 5 Live, in its first election, will open several lines 24 hours a day, offering listeners a chance to set the questions they want the politicians to answer.

Channel 4 has also tracked down 36 of the 1,784 people born on the day Margaret Thatcher was elected Tory leader on February 11, 1975, as part of its eletion coverage. Now aged 22, the group, known as *Thatcher's Children*, have only ever been aware of Conservative rule and are to vote in the general election for the first time.

They will give their views on politics and the state of the nation in a series of brief interviews, replacing programme trailers on Channel 4 in the run-up to the election. On April 24, 80 of Thatcher's Children will come together for a studio debate on the youth vote.

David Lloyd, chief commissioning editor of news and current affairs at Channel 4, said that the station hoped to eliminate the ennui that had crept into the weeks of pre-campaign posturing by politicians. "We have worked hard to provide a range of programmes that allow one to follow the campaign seriously, but at the same time to be properly inquisitive and sceptical about what the politicians are telling us," he said.

The satirist Rory Bremner will be offering his view in programmes scheduled for the Saturday before and the Saturday after the election. Sir David Frost will present *1964 And All That*, in which he compares the present contest with the 1964 general election.

Politicians and celebrities will take part in a quiz show, *Spot the Difference*, in which they will be asked to explain the difference between the parties' policies.

Each weekday Channel 4 will broadcast a new *E-thought*: a short, provocative idea, expressed through words and graphics and lasting less than a minute. They are designed to provide the information and details that many politicians are unable or unwilling to reveal, such as the fact that the pharmaceuticals bill for the NHS has doubled in the past four years.

The political chat show *Midnight Special* will return for 90 minutes from Mondays to Thursdays.

Kenneth Clarke will be going *On the Record* to debate with his Labour and Liberal Democrat rivals

Wily political bird survives Paxo roasting

THE torrent of election television began as soon as John Major left for the Palace to ask for a dissolution on Monday morning. And little of it amounted to much more than pointless moving pictures.

The most bizarre — and expensive — images were those from the ITN helicopter as it tracked the roof of the *Prime Minister's Daimler* crawling through the traffic up the Mall. The most vacuous were yesterday's BBC *Breakfast News* interviews with each party leader which revealed nothing new at all.

But some journalism penetrated the bonhomie late on Monday night when Jeremy Paxman caught up with Tony Blair in the bland surroundings of a Gloucester hotel room. There was no breakthrough here, no blood on the fitted carpet, but Paxo at least asked the sort of questions that have been nagging away at the back of many minds, not least Labour supporters. Paxman wanted to know what difference there was now between Labour and the Tories. And was there anything, anything at all, which Tony Blair was willing to promise?

Political parties tend to refight the previous election and Blair is plainly anxious to show that he is not Neil Kinnock. Labour supporters have no need this time to hold their breath as they did whenever Kinnock went on TV, praying their leader would stumble to the end without inflicting too much damage on the party. But whereas Kinnock would at least attempt to hit a question for six now and then, even if he was caught out, Blair bats each ball to the earth with a thud.

Paxman was determined to ask some troublesome questions. For instance, is Tony Blair still a socialist? We'd need to start defining terms, Jeremy. Why are nine out of ten of the lowest scoring schools in the GCSE and primary league tables administered by Labour authorities? Some of these areas are the poorest in the land, Jeremy.

On the NHS, if there are no specific promises, how will we judge whether Labour has succeeded? At the moment there are people sleeping in hospital corridors, Jeremy. Will you promise then that at the end of your first term there will not be people sleeping in corridors? It is not a promise I feel I can make, Jeremy. Blair was not flustered, but you could tell by his face that he is rarely spoken to like this.

After Paxman had established that Cedric Brown and other fat cats would not be paying more income tax after five years of Labour, the interviewer tried a trick question. Your promise about no increases in income tax, does this apply to the whole of the UK? Blair, looking perplexed, said yes. What could Jeremy be getting at? Then what about Scotland; surely you will be campaigning for a Scottish Assembly with tax-raising powers? Does that not imply more tax? No, said Blair, just because the assembly will be able to raise tax does not mean that it will actually do so. Paxman gave him the sort of look he reserves for waiters in Italian restaurants who say there is no more red wine in the cellar.

TV WATCH
NICHOLAS WAPSHOTT

Paxman dealt another couple of blows. You are the sort of politician who is brave enough to admit to having changed your mind about things, aren't you? Blair looked pleased. But surely what you need in Downing Street is someone like Mrs Thatcher who doesn't change their mind. Blair blinked in amazement.

And he blinked even more when Paxman wondered whether *The Sun* with its bare-breasted women was the right forum for Blair to use for outlining his views on Europe. I really think there are more important things to concern ourselves with, said Blair. And, to his evident relief, they ran out of time.

Lib Dems rebuked for Union Jack proposal

By Polly Newton, Political Reporter

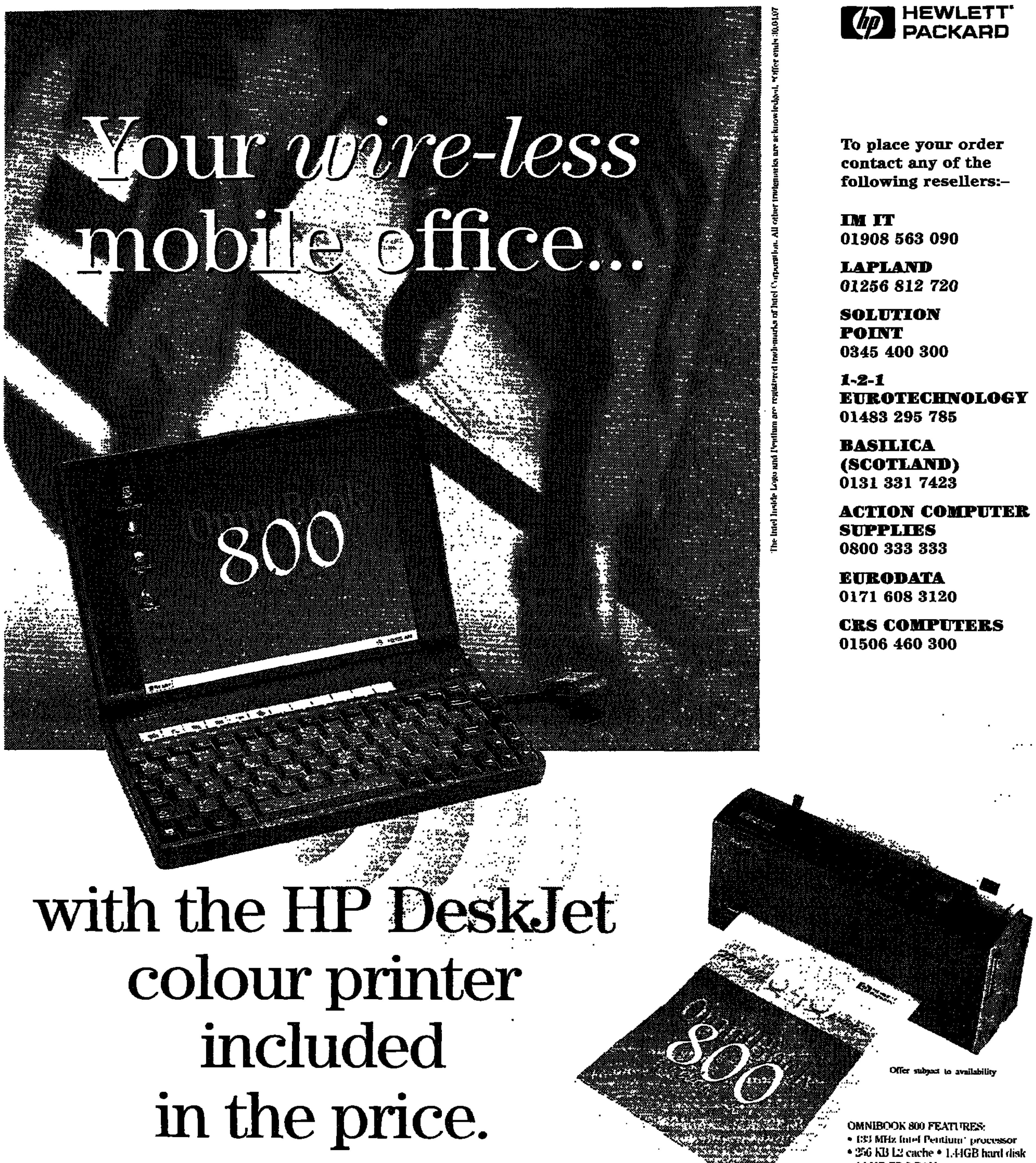
THE Liberal Democrats disowned a suggestion by two of their MPs yesterday that the Union Jack and the national anthem could be replaced if Scotland and Wales had their own parliaments.

The idea was contained in a pamphlet by Malcolm Bruce, the Liberal Democrat Treasury spokesman, and Ray Michie, MP for Argyll and Bute, who said the "rebirth" of a federal United Kingdom could be reinforced by the adoption of a new flag and a new anthem.

They said: "For many people, the Union Flag has been devalued in modern times by its association with the Tory party — and the National Front. The national anthem has been similarly hijacked by the English rugby team."

A Liberal Democrat spokeswoman described the proposal as "a personal contribution" and stressed that it was not party policy. Privately, the party leadership was understood to be furious. A source said the two MPs would be told to "stick to policy".

The Tories said the Liberal Democrats would "shred Britain into a series of regions". Michael Forsyth, the Scottish Secretary, said: "No one who holds our country dear can now trust either the Liberal Democrats or their Labour partners."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Blair should be wary of basking in The Sun

Tony Blair is becoming too fashionable. He is in danger of appearing as all things to all people. His campaign advisers are so keen to attract support and to neutralise opposition that they risk misleading voters. For them, winning the election is everything and the problems of governing can be left until later. But the price may be later disenchantment and charges of betrayal.

The smirk on Peter Mandelson's face when he praised the wisdom of *The Sun* in backing Mr Blair said it all. There are obvious campaigning reasons why Mr Mandelson would prefer *The Sun's* support, not because the paper's editorial line will shift many votes, but to avoid the mauling which Labour received on its news pages when Neil Kinnock was leader. And *The Sun's* decision matches the big swing against the Tories among its readers, as shown by the polls.

But Mr Mandelson's strongest personal belief — apart from his dedication to Labour (in its Blairite version) first, foremost and always — is a vision of Britain's role in Europe totally opposed by *The Sun*. Mr Mandelson is, after all, a vice-chairman of the European Movement, while *The Sun* is a standard bearer of sceptic populism. But the seminal event preceding *The Sun's* declaration of support was an article by Mr Blair on Europe.

Mr Blair claimed there was nothing in the article which contradcited his previous line. But the tone was markedly different from what he would have said to either a business or a European audience. His opening paragraph — "We will have no truck with a European superstate. We will fight for Britain's interests and to keep our independence every inch of the way" — could have been written by Norman Tebbit. His pledge that he was a British patriot and would "not sell my country short" was clearly designed to appeal to a sceptic audience. He advisers cannot have been surprised, nor had any reason to complain, when the front-page story in *The Sun* on Monday said "Blair takes hard new line on EU" and its leader said that Mr Blair's vision "borders on the Eurosceptic".

But nobody should delude themselves that Mr Blair is a sceptic. He is not. His public caution now is largely to prevent the Tories portraying Labour as weak on Europe. Nonetheless, he believes the public will support a positive British approach towards Europe.

Admittedly, a Blair government would probably not enter a single currency in the first wave if it goes ahead in January 1999. But Labour's attitude would be more supportive than any likely Tory government. And if a single currency succeeds, Labour would then back entry.

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

One of Mr Blair's main aims in office would be to put Britain's relations with Europe on a more harmonious footing. And given Labour's likely caution on a single currency, he would want to give an early signal of a change of direction, not just by signing the social chapter but also at the Amsterdam summit of the inter-governmental conference. Labour would keep the veto on defence, tax and immigration policy, but it would support some limited extension of qualified majority voting on environmental, industrial and regional issues.

In its qualified leader yesterday, *The Sun* expressed "great reservations" about both Labour and Tory policy on Europe. Indeed, the approach that I expect a Blair government to take on Europe is likely quickly to be denounced by the sceptics, including *The Sun*. I can also see disappointment over public spending and taxes for all Gordon Brown's careful phrases now. Mr Blair should be wary of courting support from those with whom he really disagrees. He could do with a few enemies, as well as probably fair-weather friends.

PETER RIDDELL

Prescott tours marginal seats urging waverers to exercise their right to vote

Labour introduces its 'Mr Motivator'

By James Landale, Political Reporter

John Prescott and Candy Atherton, Labour candidate in Falmouth, slicing into a pasty baked by Paul Barron-Hodge

JOHN PRESCOTT appeared yesterday in his all-action role for the general election campaign — as Labour's "Mr Motivator". Like GMTV's renowned fitness instructor, the deputy Labour leader had been dispatched on a roadshow tour of Britain: his task, however, was to galvanise the public to vote Labour.

Mr Prescott, on a windswept Cornish beach, was appearing live, via satellite, at the party's London headquarters. As Tony Blair began to speak, presenting the press conference that launched Labour's election campaign, the lights dimmed and a beaming Mr Prescott materialised on a large screen.

"Before we talk about our plans to get people off welfare and into work, can I introduce you to our very own Mr Motivator, John Prescott, who is in Falmouth with some voters who are switching to Labour," the Labour leader said.

"Hallo, John," Mr Blair said. "Hallo, Tony," Mr Prescott said.

The weather is wonderful, the sun is bright, said Mr Prescott, who fortunately was not wearing Mr Motivator's multicolour lycra training kit. "I wish I could stay here for the whole campaign but I know you won't let me, Tony." Mr Blair nodded in agreement.

Surrounded by Labour supporters, Mr Prescott was presented with a giant Cornish pasty by a local baker, Paul Barron-Hodge. "I will bring it back home," Mr Prescott declared. "It will keep the whole Shadow Cabinet going for 40 days." Back at headquarters, Mr Blair and his frontbench team, accustomed to the delicate cuisine of north London's more fashionable restaurants, laughed nervously.

Turning to his entourage, Mr Prescott introduced Stan Gore, a local retired civil servant and former Conservative voter who is planning to support Labour on May 1.

Mr Gore, a neighbour of Sebastian Coe, the Olympic Gold winner and sitting MP for the three-way marginal of Falmouth and Cambourne, said he was concerned about his young family's future. "It will be best served under a Labour administration," he said.

Mr Prescott said that Mr Gore's story was also that of thousands of other "switchers" across the country.

"So Tony, I am in Plymouth tomorrow. I will give a you a ring at the same time. Cheerio."

With that, and a wave from everyone in Falmouth, Mr Prescott disappeared from the screeen.

The deputy Labour leader has embarked on a 10,000-mile trip around Britain, billed as the biggest ever election tour by one politician. He will be visiting more than 65 marginal seats during the six-week campaign. In the first 48 hours, he intends to cover eight seats and 750 miles in the South West and South Wales.

"We won't stop until we've taken Labour's message to every corner of Britain," Mr Prescott said. "My job is to motivate people and get the vote out to make sure we can beat the Tories."

Mr Prescott's tour will end in the northern-most marginal, Inverness, in late April. At the Beacon School in Falmouth yesterday, Mr Prescott was asked by pupils what it was like being an MP.

"It is better than working," he joked, before adding: "It is an important and privileged job. You represent people, and I have always wanted to do that."

Later, on a visit to a day-care centre in Plymouth, Mr Prescott joined children in singing a nursery rhyme with words slightly adapted for the occasion.

"Ring a ring of red roses," sang Mr Prescott as he moved in a circle with three little girls, a boy and a day care assistant. "Atishoo, atishoo, John Major all fall down." As he sank to the grass, he sighed: "You can tell it is the election. We play this in the Commons all the time."

Simon Jenkins, page 18
Letters, page 19
Brian MacArthur, page 23
Housing policies, page 41

Labour 'to cut cost of culture'

LABOUR yesterday unveiled a number of incentives, including cheaper theatre seats and free admission to national museums, to improve access to cultural heritage (Jill Sherman writes). Jack Cunningham, the Shadow National Heritage Secretary, also announced plans to help youngsters with outstanding talent, and an Arts Card for teenagers offering discounts on admission fees.

Labour also proposed "open theatre nights" where everyone will be entitled to cheap tickets on Mondays, paying as much as they can afford.

Losing job is voters' biggest fear

By Ian Murray

UNEMPLOYMENT is by far the biggest fear of voters, according to a MORI poll published yesterday.

The survey, which could serve as a handy guide for politicians of the issues which they need to confront, shows that nearly half the population (48 per cent) is anxious about being out of work, compared with under a third who worry about law and order (32 per cent), education (30 per cent) and health services (29 per cent). The economy and Europe trail in fifth equal on just 14 per cent.

Concern for the constitution, a source of bitter party division, did not feature as an issue. Drug abuse worries 8 per cent but race relations only 3 per cent in the *What's Worrying Britain* survey.

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Today the streets are still thronged with lively cafés and bars (over 2500), restaurants (over 400) and theatres (25). Praise be for such a glorious city dedicated to culture, prosperity and a faith in the future. Churches (87). Museums and galleries abound befitting a city with such a strong heritage. Rubens House and studio remain intact and his works are commonplace. Sculptures by Rodin, Moore, Hepworth and Zadkin rub shoulder to shoulder in Middelheim Park. Tempting shops, stores and boutiques can be found everywhere. And at night the city rocks to the sound of music, laughter and gaiety. Without doubt, it's the most welcoming, interesting, fun, avant-garde place in the whole country with "more attitude per square centimetre" than you'll find anywhere else in Belgium.

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There's nothing you can't find in Handthrow. With the second largest port on the continent, goods of every description pour into the city, especially diamonds. Handthrow is a world centre for the priceless gems and is much larger and vastly more important than Amsterdam. The first printers also left their mark. Handthrow's liberal attitude attracted scholars, artists and visionaries as well as entrepreneurs and merchants from all over Europe. They built grand houses, guildhalls and cathedrals that remain an edifice to the power and greatness of the city and are a wonder to behold as you wander across the spectacular squares and down the streets and ancient alleyways.

A city by another name

An impressive statue to Brabo stands proudly in front of Antwerp's Renaissance style Town Hall. Antwerp? It's Flemish for Handthrow.

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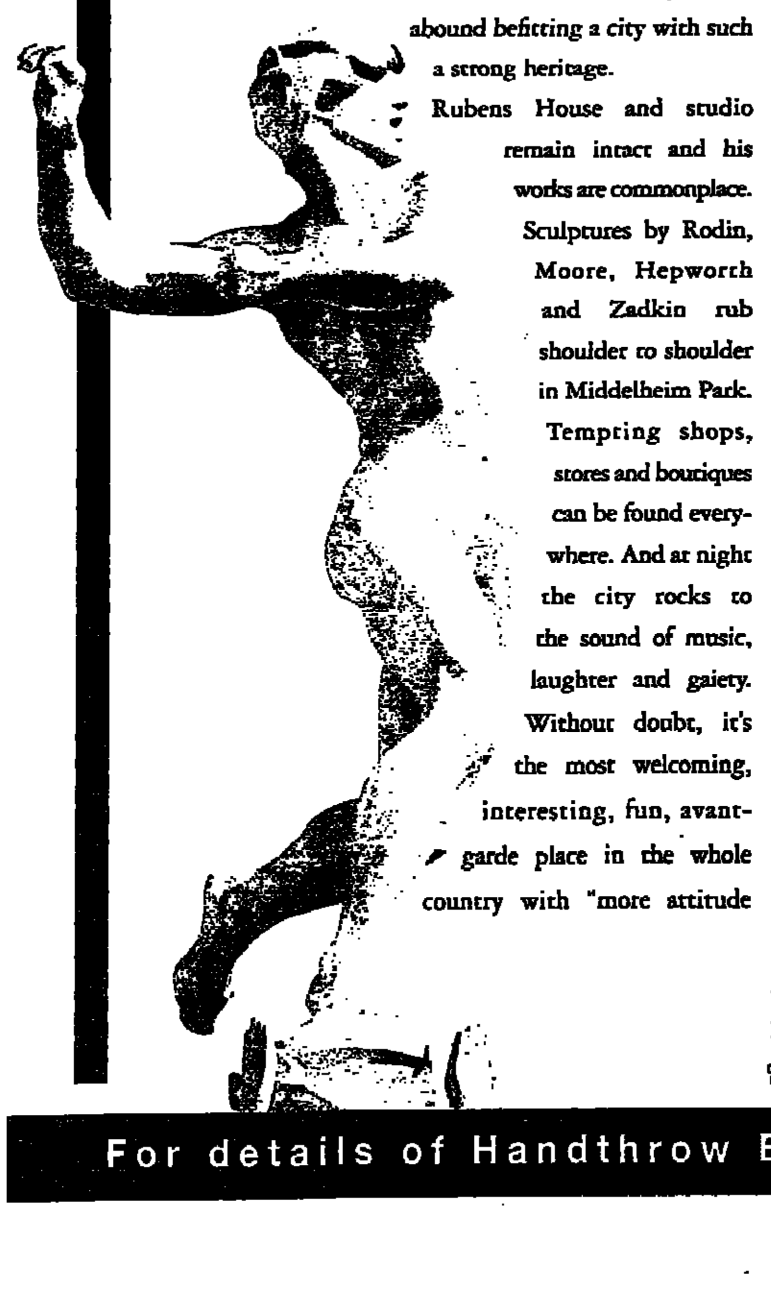


Call for watchdog to replace part-time governors

BBC's amateur bosses out of date, say MPs

By Alexandra Frean
Media Correspondent

MPs demanded the abolition of the BBC's Board of Governors yesterday, labelling them as part-time, well-intentioned amateurs drawn from the great and the good, and accountable to no one.

The Heritage Select Committee called unanimously for the governors' regulatory duties to be transferred to an independent watchdog, with the power to fine the BBC if its programmes fail to meet standards of taste, decency, quality, diversity and social responsibity.

The governors' custodial function of representing the interests of licence-payers would be transferred to a board of directors, headed by an executive chairman and including qualified non-executive directors from different backgrounds.

The Heritage Committee, chaired by the Labour MP Gerald Kaufman, said that the BBC could not expect to "survive, prosper and expand" if its fate was in the hands of "a group of part-time people nominated for various attributes not connected with broadcasting".

Kaufman: Auntie needs power dressing, he said

In a report titled *BBC and the Future of Broadcasting* it said: "While a board of governors consisting of nominated amateurs was, in an earlier phase of its existence, an appropriate way for the BBC to be supervised, in the new, tough, commercial environment it no longer is. It is idle to suppose that the present board, however talented they may be as individuals — or any other group of individuals appointed in the same way and from the same pool of the great and the good — can hope to compete adequately."

The 12 board members are appointed by the Queen in Council on the advice of the Government, to protect the public interest. Their terms of office usually last five years. They include Sir Kenneth Bloomfield, former head of the Northern Ireland Civil Service, the Rev Norman Drummond, former headmaster of the leading Edinburgh public school Loretto, Bill Jordan, general secretary of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, and Lord Gordon Lennox, a former Ambassador to Spain.

Mr Kaufman said: "It's about time that Auntie started power-dressing." The committee also recommended that the BBC should be allowed to borrow money like any commercial organisation, to help it to survive media revolution.

The BBC has recently strengthened the regulatory powers of the governors, enabling them to act as a final court of appeal for viewers bringing complaints.

A BBC spokesman said that their role had been "consolidated and closely refined", adding that the BBC upheld more complaints about its programmes than the Independent Television Commission did on commercial broadcasts.

He added: "The BBC's prime role is as a public service broadcaster. It is not a plc and the governors' custodial role on behalf of the licence payers reflects this."

Mr Kaufman said that the BBC should be subjected to the same rigorous regulation as Channel 4, which can be fined by the ITC for transgressions of taste, decency and impartiality.

The committee advised against privatising Channel 4.

ALAN WELLER

Damon Hill with his wife, Georgie, after receiving his OBE from the Queen at Buckingham Palace yesterday

Hill's lap of honour

DAMON HILL returned to Buckingham Palace yesterday to receive the insignia of the OBE almost 30 years after he watched his father, Graham, being invested with the same honour.

The reigning Formula 1 world champion, who was 7 when his father was honoured in 1968 after winning the world championship for the second time, said: "The room seems smaller than I remember it. I'm very proud to be honoured by the Queen and by the country." He added that the Queen was "up to speed" with her knowledge of motor racing. "She appreciated that it was a close finish last year. And she also knows that it is going to be a bit tougher this year." Only nine days ago his Yamaha Arrows car failed to start in the Australian Grand Prix at Melbourne. "We're going to Brazil next week for the next grand prix and looking forward to doing better," he said.

Sir Alec Bedser, 78, the former England cricketer, was knighted yesterday.

Psychosis that can be exposed by stress

MEDICAL BRIEFING

DIEGO COGOLATO is starting a six-year jail sentence after repeatedly stabbing his lover, the fashion designer Ossie Clark, to death. Cogolato also battered Mr Clark around the head with a stone, a terracotta flower vase, and a stave. The attack on Mr Clark occurred during a period when Cogolato was said to have been suffering from a transient psychotic episode.

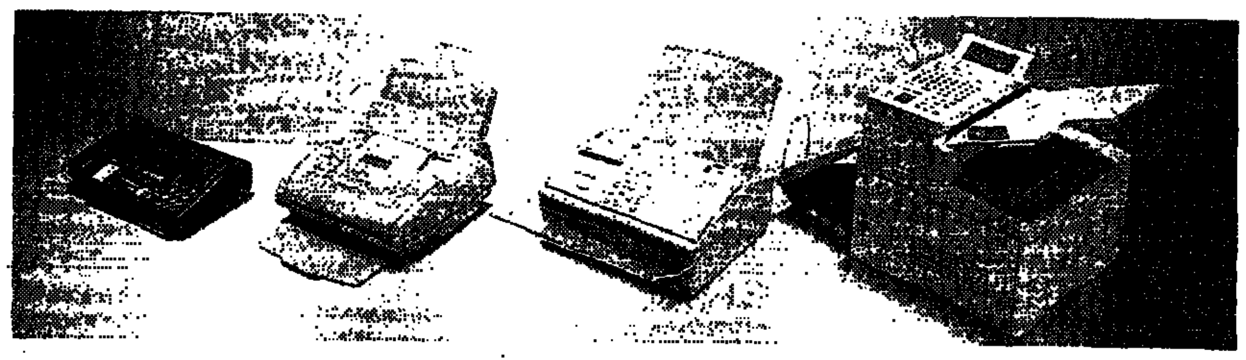
Cogolato, 29, seemed to have led a purposeless life since completing his military service in Italy. He regularly took illicit drugs and excessive amounts of alcohol. The attack on Mr Clark was, according to Cogolato, ordered by God as he, Cogolato, was the Messiah sent to rid the world of Satan — his former lover.

Cogolato was originally described as suffering from schizophrenia. The history of delusions, the hearing of God's voice and the patient's acquiescence in the violent solution that he perceived to be God's will, are depressingly familiar to most doctors. Later this initial diagnosis was modified and he was said to be suffering from an acute psychotic episode, sometimes referred to as a brief reactive psychosis. The features of transient psychotic episodes are that the symptoms should be of sudden origin, last for at least a few hours, and that the patient's personality should return to its pre-episode state within a month. During the Second World War, soldiers who displayed these symptoms were said to suffer from "three-day schizophrenia".

Patients who suffer a brief reactive psychosis often have pre-existing mental disease, or a personality disorder, which is exacerbated by any of the stresses that induce emotional turmoil. Unhappiness after the end of an affair or a divorce is a common precipitating cause of a reactive psychosis but other patients react equally badly to excessive workload or illness.

With treatment the majority of patients will overcome any psychotic symptoms should they recur, and there is increasing evidence that early anti-psychotic treatment can prevent later trouble.

Dr Thomas Stuttaford



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Lender Typical Example	APR	48 Monthly Payments	Total Amount Paid	Direct Loan Saving
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Barclays	[illegible]	£235.73	£11,315.04	[illegible]
TSB	[illegible]	£232.77	£11,172.96	[illegible]
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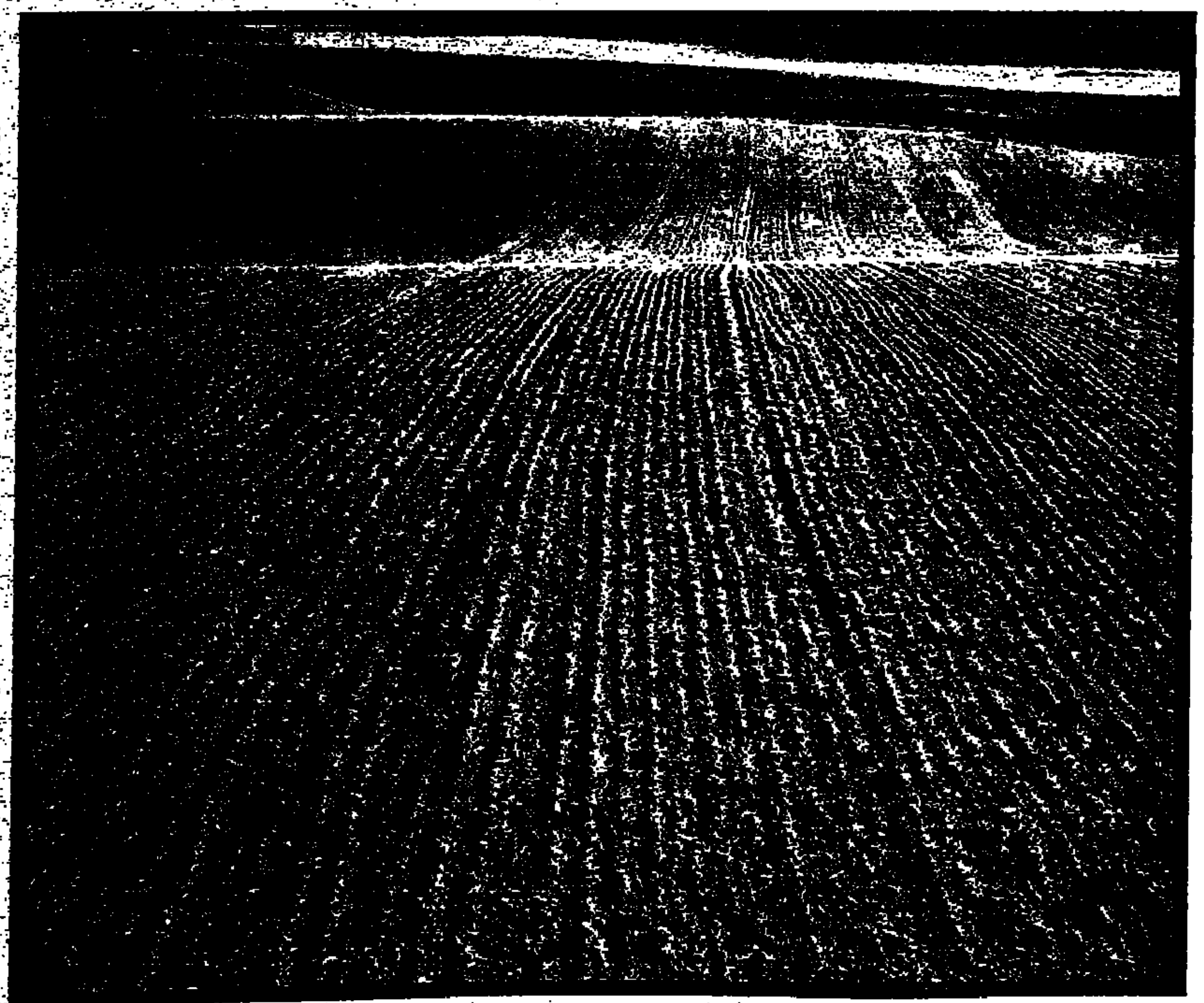

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Growing fear of illegal immigrants and criminals replaces humanitarian response to refugees

Italian alarm as Albanian influx leads to clashes

From Richard Owen in Rome

THE flood of Albanians fleeing across the Adriatic to southern Italy approached 10,000 yesterday, with reports of growing tension and violence between residents and immigrants.

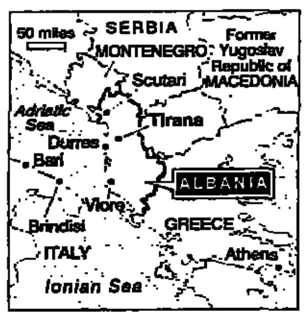
The humanitarian response to the exodus at the weekend has given way to alarm, with officials saying they fear Italy is facing an influx of illegal immigrants and criminals more than a refugee crisis.

The Italian authorities appear to have been caught napping, despite weeks of warnings in the Italian press of a repetition of the influx of 1991, when more than 40,000 fled to Italy after Communism collapsed in Albania.

Officials said it was "practically impossible" to establish the new refugees' identities, carry out full health checks and weed out criminal elements. "I fear the immigrants include Albanian mafiosi who have escaped from jail, and will link up with the Italian Mafia and give them arms," said Pier Luigi Vigna, the chief anti-Mafia prosecutor. "Albania has become the only country in the world with no prisoners." The Italian Cabinet will meet today to review the crisis.

The separatist Northern League, which takes a strong anti-immigrant stand, said it was forming "vigilante patrols" to keep Albanians out of northern towns. Marco Formentini, the Northern League Mayor of Milan, said Italy was "raising the white flag in the face of an invasion of Albanian delinquents ... These people are profiting from disorder to enter our country."

Police in Bari, Brindisi, Otranto and other ports who only a few days ago were seen carrying Albanian babies to safety, have now begun arresting the crews of fishing boats carrying refugees on charges of transporting illegal immigrants and firearms. Ports and resorts further north such as Pescara, Ravenna and Jesolo, near Venice, were "closed" to immigrants.



Caritas, the Catholic aid agency whose volunteers are bearing the brunt of the relief effort, complained that there were not enough police to keep order in the makeshift refugee camps. The head of Caritas, Mgr Luigi Di Liegro, said Italy and Europe had "sinned by omission" in failing to prevent the Albanian economy from falling into the hands of the Mafia.

In Bari there were ugly scenes as local people demonstrated at refugee centres in schools and church halls, in some cases clashing with the immigrants. "These people bring drugs, prostitution and skin diseases with them," one said.

Simone Di Cagno Abbrescia, the Mayor of Bari, was angered by a visit to one centre. "We give them a shower, clean clothes and bedding, and all they do is vandalise things and complain about the food," he said.

In a further sign of disarray, Paolo Foresti, the Italian Ambassador in Tirana — who has played a key role in seeking a diplomatic solution — was abruptly replaced by Alfredo Matacotta Cordella, another senior diplomat.

Italian coastguards said that because of calmer seas and clear moonlit nights, thousands more Albanians were making the 40-mile trip across the Adriatic in leaking and dangerously overcrowded vessels.

The Italian Government declared that it was providing only "temporary sanctuary", saying yesterday that many of the Albanians would add to the country's crime statistics.

Brindisi now contains nearly all of the ramshackle Albanian navy: rusting and battered minesweepers, coastal patrol vessels, torpedo boats and launches.

EPA

Perilous voyage to 'a better life'

Albanians, desperate to flee anarchy and poverty afflicting their country, attempt to sail an abandoned cargo vessel to Italy yesterday by fashioning sails from rubbish sacks. The refugees, lacking any other means to flee, had hauled the rusting coaster, which has no power, along the dock in Durres harbour and then pushed off into the current, using lumber and metal sheeting as oars to propel it. The enterprise seemed so risky that about half of the people on board disembarked at the mouth of the harbour, fearing it might sink. The rest, numbering about a hundred, drifted out into the Adriatic to what they hope will be a better life abroad. Several smaller craft, also without power, were reported to have drifted out of Durres harbour as well yesterday. On Monday the US Navy rescued 20 Albanians who had been adrift in the Adriatic in a powerless boat for five days, three of them without food or water. *(Reuter)*

Iran school attacked

By James Pettifer

HEAVILY armed men leading a crowd of adolescents wielding pickaxes and shovels destroyed much of the Iranian Government's agricultural school on the outskirts of Tirana last night.

This impressive modern complex, near the airport, was the showpiece of the Tehran Government's quiet economic and diplomatic offensive in Albania. The cost of the damage is estimated by Albanian employees at about $1.5 million (£950,000). The school was opened by President Berisha and a leading Iranian cleric three years ago.

Albania, where 60 per cent of the population is Muslim, was a natural target for Iranian aid and missionary work after years of religious persecution under communism. Strong American opposition has, however, prevented the opening of high-level diplomatic relations.

In response the Iranians have concentrated on economic links, with frequent trade exhibitions in Albania, subsidised exports of Iranian goods, and this large and well-run programme concentrating on educating farmers, particularly in the rearing of cattle.

The Tehran approach in Albania has avoided the ostentatious mosque-building programmes of Kuwait and Abu Dhabi.

Red Cross backs Tirana appeal for aid

Anthony Loyd reports from Tirana on the desperate state of the civilian population as food stocks fall to critical levels

ALBANIA'S new Prime Minister, Bashkim Fino, issued an urgent appeal for humanitarian aid yesterday after food stocks fell to critical levels.

The International Committee of the Red Cross backed his appeal and called for funds to finance emergency aid.

The head of the European Union delegation in the capital, Tirana, refused to rule out recommending that foreign troops should be sent to safeguard the delivery of emergency supplies. "We are not looking at military intervention or a big force," Jan de Marchant et D'Ansembourg, a Dutch diplomat, said yesterday. "But we need aid to be brought in for those who need it, and we cannot provide humanitarian assistance without first stabilising the environment: to do that might require a real European commitment here."

Mr D'Ansembourg spoke after separate meetings with President Berisha, Mr Fino and Albanian officials. His fact-finding delegation arrived in Tirana on Monday night and leaves today to submit a report to EU foreign ministers.

The delegation is divided into three groups, assessing security aspects of any potential aid mission as well as financial and humanitarian requirements.

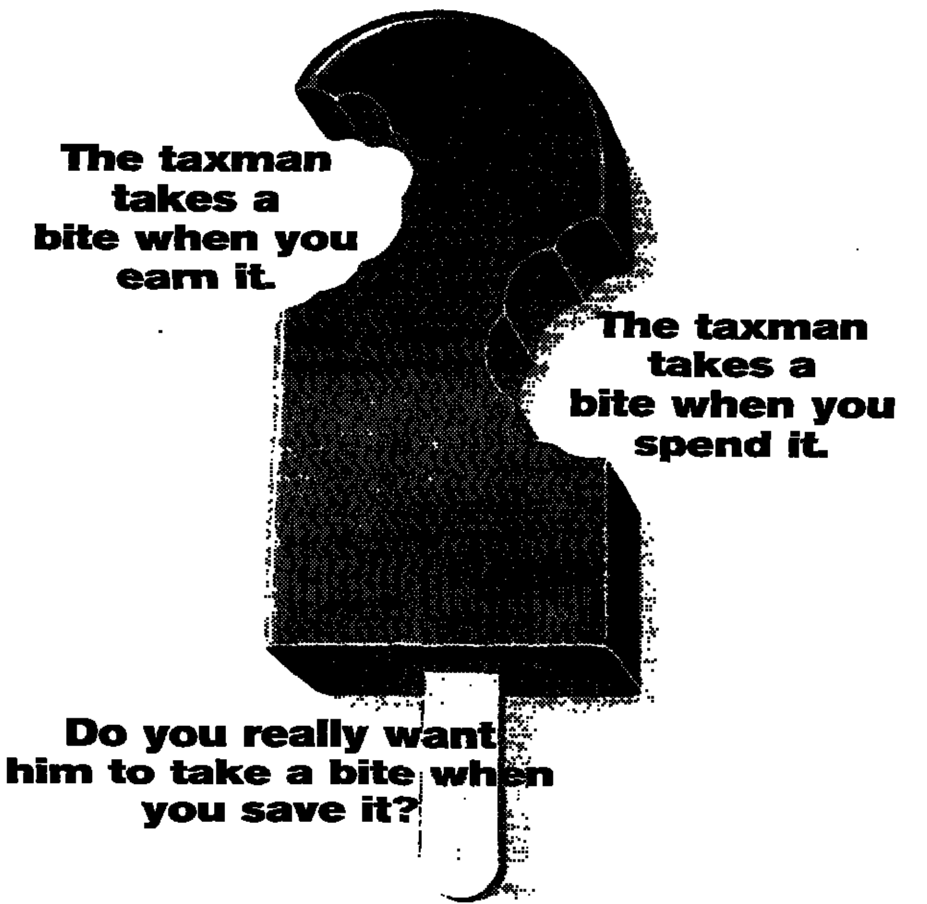
"We have four military men concentrating on that aspect of affairs," Mr D'Ansembourg said. His delegation was sent after an EU meeting in The Netherlands last weekend refused Albania's request for a peacekeeping force to help to restore order. However, that refusal did not preclude the deployment of a UN-style "protection" force for the delivery of aid.

Mr Fino repeated his request for outside assistance to restore order. "We need humanitarian aid as soon as possible, mainly food and medicine to prevent further aggravation of the situation," state television quoted him as saying on Monday.

"European police units are necessary to distribute this aid ... and contribute to restoring order and rebuilding our police. Reorganising public and financial institutions would be another part of [the] assistance."

Although the overall level of violence has calmed over the past three days after police succeeded in holding the centre of Tirana, the state had been left fragmented into well armed fiefdoms of conflicting loyalty.

The North is held largely by paramilitary and police units loyal to Mr Berisha. It is unclear whether the President or the Prime Minister holds the centre of Tirana, so confused is the situation, but most of the suburbs are loyal to the new Government. The South is held by rebel groups hostile to the President.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German workers add Krupp to protest targets

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

THE Ruhr was in uproar yesterday as Germany's snowballing protest movement switched its focus from the coal pits to the steel foundries.

Thousands of irate steelworkers downed tools and besieged the headquarters of Krupp-Hoesch on hearing that the Essen-based company had launched a hostile takeover bid for Thyssen.

For workers from both companies the takeover spells mass redundancies at a time when the Ruhr is suffering severe unemployment. "In Dortmund alone, between 5,000, and 6,000 jobs are threatened: unemployment there will jump to 20 per cent," Jürgen Hafner, the Krupp works council leader, said. Other worker leaders reckoned on the loss of at least 10,000 jobs on top of the 2,200 cuts announced last month by Krupp-Hoesch.

"Pure panic-mongering," Gerhard Cromme, the Krupp-Hoesch chairman, said. But he did so from behind a row of riot police shields and was all but invisible to the workers, who threw eggs at him.

Herr Cromme organised Krupp's takeover of Hoesch five years ago and provoked the biggest postwar protest in the Ruhr by closing a foundry in Duisburg. Now the foundrymen are worried that something similar is about to happen. "We believe that if Thyssen is bought by Krupp then it will be broken up," Willy Siegerer, deputy head of the Thyssen works council, said. "We will not just sit back and let this happen to us. This is undiluted capitalism, pure Wild West methods."

The workers seem to have the backing of the Thyssen management. "This takeover bid cannot lead to sensible results," a statement signed by the management board, the supervisory board and the Thyssen works council said. "It is unacceptable to destroy a strong, healthy company well prepared for the future, to solve the possible problems of another company or to satisfy the short-term profit interests of capital providers."

> ‘We will not just sit back. This is undiluted capitalism, pure Wild West methods’

Thyssen calculates that to assure investors of an adequate return on a DM8 billion to DM9 billion (£3 billion to £3.4 billion) takeover bid, the buyer would have to consume all of Thyssen's capital reserves and make deep cuts in the workforce.

The takeover bid is an attempt by Krupp to wriggle out of Germany's industrial crisis. As a merged concern it could be the third largest steel group in Europe (in terms of output) after British Steel and the French Usinor Sacilor company. Together it would have combined sales of more than DM63 billion. Many analysts, though recognising that the steel industry needs to concentrate its assets, doubt that Krupp has the means to finance the takeover.

Unlike in the coal industry, there is potential for improving productivity and quality in German foundries. Thyssen was taking three hours to produce a tonne of raw steel last year. In France the same production took 3.5 man hours and in Britain 3.9 hours, but this high productivity was eaten away by Germany's large supplementary labour costs. Thus it cost Thyssen DM52 to produce a tonne of steel compared to DM44 in France and DM30 in Britain.

Barring an overhaul of social welfare contributions, the only option facing Germany's steel companies is to streamline production and cut more jobs. The workers' fears about the consequences of the takeover, therefore, are probably justified.

Armies clash in pitch battle

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

SNATCHES of shouted Chinese against a background of skirling pipes heralded a rugby first in Hong Kong yesterday when the People's Liberation Army played the 1st Battalion The Black Watch — and won.

The two sides were competing in the first round of the annual ten-a-side tournament, organised by the Hong Kong Football Club. The game looked likely to end with a diplomatic 7-7 score until the Chinese side, with little more than two years' experience, scored the winning try in injury time to secure a 12-7 victory.

A British Army spokesman said: "Soccer is really the battalion's game. There are one or two civilians in the side. If you want rugger, that's the Duke of Wellington's Regiment."

The army's defenders were also quick to point out that the Chinese team was drawn from the PLA Sports Institute.

Lieutenant-Colonel Alasdair Louden, the Black Watch Commanding Officer, tried to soften the impact of defeat. "We had our lads from the battalion. They [the PLA] could choose from two million," he said.

The Black Watch soldiers are the last British troops stationed in Hong Kong and will hand over to the PLA when the territory returns to Chinese sovereignty on July 1.

The PLA were slimmer, faster and ultimately fitter. They had a secret weapon, too, in the shape of Carson Lin from Taiwan. Dressed in the PLA team kit, Mr Lin first described himself as "just a tourist, a businessman".

He went on to explain that he was a touchline referee at the main rugger matches here, the Sevens, which begin next weekend, and later he revealed: "I've played a lot in Taiwan. I suggested the PLA should learn the game at their institute.

"I've taught them all the basics — tackling, passing, the rules, everything," Mr Lin added.

Before the game, he warms them up, inside. "I tell them this is like a war, also a game, we need to win, to win. Then I make a noise. It's to make them a little crazy when they get on the field. Of course, the other side does it too. It's very fierce. But it's just a game."

It was the second time the PLA had played rugby here, but the first time they had come upon The Ladies from Hell, as the Germans called their kilted enemy in the Great War.

Everyone said the right thing. Major-General Brian Dutton, Commander, British Forces in Hong Kong, said: "Contact is good in a non-confrontational atmosphere. This was bridge-building."

Colonel Louden added: "It was great. Excellent. Great atmosphere. Before the game there was a lot of 'honour of the regiment, pride of Scotland' — that sort of thing."

The PLA hooker, muddy and still gasping, said simply of the Scots: "They're not bad."

☐ **Rugby landmark:** China was tipped as a future World Cup contender after the People's Republic officially joined the rugby union fraternity yesterday (Our Foreign Staff writes).

The International Rugby Football Board welcomed China as the 76th member at a ceremony in Hong Kong. "This is a great moment for rugby," the board's chairman, Vernon Pugh, said. "It's a landmark for the game."

CLARO CORTES / REUTER

A Chinese soldier brings down a Black Watch regiment player during a ten-a-side tournament in Hong Kong

Opposition challenge to Kremlin

Moscow: Hardline opposition politicians in Russia's State Duma, stung by the promotion of market reformers in President Yeltsin's Cabinet reshuffle, served notice yesterday that they would seek a vote of no confidence in the Government (Robin Lodge writes).

Viktor Ilyukhin, the Communist chairman of the parliamentary security committee, the main instigator of an abortive attempt earlier this year to have Mr Yeltsin removed from office on health grounds, said the Duma was likely to launch the no confidence procedure "shortly". He described the new Cabinet as incompetent, consisting of people "who lay great claims on power but are not well prepared for it".

Past attempts to vote down the Government have come to nothing. If a vote were passed, Mr Yeltsin would dissolve parliament and hold elections.

Britain and Russia sign deal for military co-operation

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

BRITAIN attempted yesterday to placate Russia over Nato's expansion plans when Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, signed a military co-operation agreement here with Igor Rodionov, his Russian counterpart.

Amid champagne toasts and warm handshakes, the British and Russians agreed that the armed forces of both countries will work more closely on everything from exchanges of information about military technology to joint exercises and visiting marching bands.

Mr Rodionov, who kept his job in last week's Cabinet reshuffle and yesterday promised a purge of several corrupt generals, praised the agreement as a major confidence-building measure to benefit European security. Nato's expansion plans cast a distinct shadow over the proceedings, however. The white-haired former Russian general insisted that Moscow wanted a legally binding agreement with the 16-member alliance, to ensure that its security would not be jeopardised by the plans.

The issue will dominate the summit between President Yeltsin and President Clinton when they meet tomorrow in Helsinki, in what is being billed as a turning point in post-Cold War European history.

During the discussions, Mr Clinton will try to convince the Kremlin leader that Nato's plans to extend membership to Poland, the Czech Republic and Hungary will not endanger Russian security.

In addition to economic incentives, Washington wants to offer Moscow special security guarantees in return for Russia dropping its objections over enlargement.

For their part, the Russians are privately resigned to Nato's initial expansion. They want guarantees, however, that the alliance will not deploy nuclear weapons on the territory of the new members and assurances that Nato will not extend further eastwards to the former Soviet republics. So far, however, diplomatic efforts have failed to reach agreement.

Rodionov: promise to oust corrupt generals

Ban sought on fighting cocks

Madrid: Spanish animal rights groups are demanding an immediate ban on the export of fighting cocks to betting cartels in Latin America (Tunku Varadarajan writes). Cockfights are prohibited under Spanish law but the export of fighting cocks is legal. A Spanish fighting cock can fetch up to £750 in Venezuela, the biggest market. Last year more than 10,000 cocks were exported from Spain. Puerto Rico, Mexico and Colombia are the other main importers.

Woman held for kidnapping

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

BELGIAN prosecutors appeared close yesterday to solving the case of a missing child after the arrest of a woman on charges of kidnapping a 12-year-old girl in 1989.

Monique Cherton, 38, was detained at her home near the city of Namur after the reopening of an investigation into the disappearance of Elisabeth Brichet there. Her partner, a documentary film-maker, was killed in a car crash last month while on his way to give evidence to investigators.

The case was one of a dozen involving missing children that were reopened last autumn after the uproar over Marc Dutroux, the alleged leader of a paedophile ring who is being held on suspicion of abduction and murder.

Revelations of police bungling and charges of cover-up in that case — which involved inquiries into the kidnapping of six girls and the murder of four of them — led the Government to devote heavy resources to solving all suspected child murders. A Brussels garage employee was charged last week with murder after the body of a nine-year-old girl was found in a storeroom five years after she disappeared. There was no apparent link to the Dutroux affair in that case, or in that of Brichet, but prosecutors were ruling nothing out.

Mrs Cherton's partner, Jean-Marc Houdmont, a paedophile first questioned when Brichet disappeared, is believed to have committed suicide, his car hitting a wall at high speed.

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Republican fundraising obsession slows wheels of government to a crawl

Clinton: foreign policy an enticing refuge

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX
IN WASHINGTON

ANALYSIS

PRESIDENT CLINTON intended to spend yesterday with his physiotherapists, dubbed "the torture team", as well as preparing for today's trip to Helsinki to meet President Yeltsin of Russia.

Instead, from his wheelchair in the White House, he grappled with a different, unexpected ordeal: the urgent search for a new head of the Central Intelligence Agency.

Anthony Lake's decision to withdraw his nomination, making him the first casualty of this round of Senate confirmation hearings, shows how the campaign finance row has brought government to a standstill. The Administration is weeks behind schedule in making key appointments as officials scour their offices for memorandums demanded by congressional committees. The Republican-controlled Congress, obsessed with the document trail, has passed no significant legislation in three months.

Little wonder that to Mr Clinton foreign policy seems an enticing refuge, although the Helsinki summit reflects one of the causes of the Washington deadlock: the United States lacks a real threat, abroad or at home. Suggestions that China tried to influence November's elections have partly satisfied the craving for a new enemy. But members of Congress have found it easiest to fill the policy vacuum with attacks on each other, bringing an emphatic end to the bipartisan honeymoon and jeopardising Mr Clinton's hopes of a worthwhile second term.

As Mr Lake put it on Monday night: "Washington has gone haywire." A career diplomat with a thin-lipped smile, 1950s felt hat, horn-rimmed glasses and beige mackintosh, Mr Lake's bitterness at the abrupt end to his ascent is understandable.

Mr Lake's record at the National Security Council was not faultless, but he is right to claim that seeking high office has become perilous. The Senate investigates every corner of a nominee's life, a scrutiny many find unacceptable even if there is no illegally hired nanny in the background to disqualify them.

Mr Lake's move also shows how the fundraising row is clogging the machinery of government. His confirmation hearings were prolonged largely because the committee used the questions to investigate White House campaign tactics rather than his suitability for the job.

Meanwhile, the State Department has delayed nominating ambassadors and assistant secretaries while it checks whether any have connections, particularly with Asia, that could seem suspicious.

The White House has postponed a study of gambling, for fear of charges that Mr Clinton was influenced by gambling donations. Above all, policy towards China has been complicated: the charges, denied by Peking, will dominate Vice-President Al Gore's forthcoming trip to China.

The investigations may turn up extensive evidence of illegality, but so far the clamour has far outpaced the findings. The dispute is a reminder of how two obstacles increasingly threaten to cripple American political life: the difficulty of winning office, and of getting anything done once in the job. Those constraints would be less if there were more sense of urgency among congressional Republicans or Democrats about pushing through a legislative agenda. The US is not short of problems to solve.

But the economic prosperity that swept Mr Clinton to a second term, as well as the end of the Cold War, have removed the pressure which would have forced Congress and the White House to reach across their divisions. Many besides Mr Lake will feel bitter if the lesson of the 105th Congress is that America can be governed only in crisis.

Clinton candidate for CIA chief quits over Senate 'circus'

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT CLINTON'S controversial fundraising antics claimed a member of his inner circle yesterday when Anthony Lake withdrew his nomination as Director of the CIA, maintaining he was the victim of partisan politics.

Mr Lake, the President's former National Security Adviser and senior negotiator on Ireland, told Mr Clinton he was no longer prepared to act as a "dancing bear in a political circus" of Senate confirmation hearings.

His departure, which comes three months after being nominated, left the President hobbled both physically and politically on the eve of his flight to the Helsinki summit with President Yeltsin. Mr Clinton had hoped to spend the day resting after an operation to his knee last week, but instead was forced to consider swift replacements for the CIA position.

Mr Lake was the fourth nominee for the CIA job during Mr Clinton's tenure at the White House and the second to have withdrawn from the role, which also includes board chairman of the nation's 12 other intelligence services and controller of the purse strings for a $30 billion (£19 billion) budget.

The resignation came after a damaging report which alleged that the Democrats had ignored the President's national security aides and even deployed secret information from the CIA to ensure White House access last year for a Lebanese businessman wanted by Interpol.

Nancy Soderberg, then Mr Lake's deputy at the National Security Council, had warned the Democratic National Committee that Roger Tamraz was not to be allowed into the White House for donor events to Mr Clinton's re-election.

But Don Fowler, chairman of the committee, tried to overturn her recommendation and is believed to have arranged for a secret CIA dossier on Mr Tamraz to be sent to national security aides.

Mr Tamraz attended four events with Mr Clinton, including a June screening of the film *Independence Day*, and contributed at least $177,000 to the Democrats in 1995 and 1996. In Lebanon, he is wanted for questioning regarding $200 million allegedly missing from the Bank al-Mashrek.

The CIA and congressional investigators are treating the claims as "extremely serious". Senate Republicans had planned to make them an issue at hearings into Mr Lake's confirmation.

It was the second time, including an FBI warning to the national security team about China's attempts to influence the election, that Mr Lake was said by the White House to have had no knowledge of intelligence matters in his own department.

But he had also drawn criticism for not informing Capitol Hill of a tacit White House decision in 1994 to approve Iran's arming of the Bosnian Muslims. He had also faced lengthy questioning over personal finances and a political past which included a protest resignation from the Nixon Administration over the invasion of Cambodia.

The latest bombshell over Mr Tamraz had given the Senate intelligence committee enough leverage to delay a vote on Mr Lake's nomination until mid-April, bringing further damage to an intelligence agency racked by moles.

In a letter to Mr Clinton, Mr Lake said he was the victim of a "brutal" confirmation process. He had lost his patience, he said, come close to losing his dignity, and was not prepared to face a nomination process with no end.

"I have believed all my life in public service. I still do. But Washington has gone haywire," he said. "I hope that people of all political views beyond our city will demand that Washington give priority to policy over partisanship, to governing over 'gotcha'."

Those being considered for the vacant post last night included George Tenet, the acting CIA Director, Jamie Gorelick, the Deputy Attorney-General, Frank Wisner, the US Ambassador to India, and Sam Nunn, the former senator who is a military and intelligence specialist.

‘I still believe in public service. But Washington has gone haywire’

Leading article, page 19

BEN MARGOT / AP

Linda Finch prepares to take off from Oakland on the first leg of her round-the-world flight. The total journey will cover 26,000 nautical miles

Earhart: disappeared over Pacific in 1937

Texan millionairess takes off in flight path of pioneering pilot

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

A TEXAN millionairess has set off from California in a vintage aircraft in an attempt to recreate and complete Amelia Earhart's ill-fated attempt to fly round the world 60 years ago.

Hundreds of schoolchildren cheered as Linda Finch took off in her painstakingly restored 1935 Lockheed Electra 10E on Monday from the same airfield in Oakland from which Earhart left on St Patrick's Day in 1937. Ms Finch, 46, hopes to complete the round-the-world flight planned by Miss Earhart, who earned international fame when she became the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic in 1932.

Earhart originally hoped to set a record for circling the globe by travelling west, but she crashed in Hawaii. She had her plane repaired for a second attempt heading east, but disappeared on July 2, 1937, while flying a leg from Lae, New Guinea, to Howland Island in the Pacific Ocean. In the absence of any wreckage, there is unending speculation about Earhart's disappearance. It has even been suggested she was on a spying mission against the Japanese.

Others have flown Earhart's route, but nobody has ever done it in a twin-engine Electra similar to to Earhart's aircraft. Ms Finch, who has made a fortune running nursing homes, bought the plane in boxes and spent two years rebuilding it, borrowing parts from an Electra on display at an aerospace museum in Oakland.

Unlike Earhart, Ms Finch will benefit from a global-positioning satellite receiver and will use VHF radio to help with landings and take-offs. She will also have an escort plane carrying a film crew to chronicle her endeavour.

Flying at a maximum speed of 200mph, her flight will cover 26,000 nautical miles and take her to 20 countries before she returns to Oakland in July. She plans to drop a wreath on Howland Island, near where Earhart is presumed to have gone down, to commemorate the great aviator.

Missing Renoir retrieved from US

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

THE Spencer-Churchill family has retrieved Renoir's *Study for the Apple Gatherers* from a leading American collector after accusing a London dealer of selling it to him without permission.

A lawyer representing Jeanne Spencer-Churchill, whose millionaire husband is a cousin of the Duke of Marlborough, picked up the painting at the weekend from the Connecticut home of Richard Thune, a noted collector of 18th and 19th-century French paintings.

The undated oil of two women picking apples in a field, valued at up to $2 million (£1.26 million), is now being shipped back to London by Sotheby's. Mrs Spencer-Churchill, 42, herself an accomplished artist, inherited the painting from her grandfather, Paul Maze, who was Sir Winston Churchill's painting tutor.

Mr Maze's father was a close friend of Renoir as well as other famous French artists including Monet, Manet and Braque. He had bought the oil in the 1920s from the artist's son, Jean Renoir, the film director.

Mrs Spencer-Churchill's husband, Robert, the only son of the late Lord Ivor Spencer-Churchill, inherited a fortune as a child from his rich American grandmother, Consuelo Vanderbilt Balsan. The couple have two sons — Jack, 13, and Ivor, 11.

The Renoir hung for a time on a wall of the Spencer-Churchills' home in London and, from 1991 until 1994, was put on show at the Leeds City Art Gallery. Mrs Spencer-Churchill then offered to lend the painting to the Museum of Wales in Cardiff and sought the help of William Joll, a family friend and former director of Agnew's art gallery.

According to a High Court writ, Mr Joll told the family that he had arranged for the painting to be taken to the Lefevre Gallery in Mayfair to be viewed by museum officials. The museum decided not to take up the offer and Mr Joll is said to have moved it to another, unnamed London gallery.

Mrs Spencer-Churchill only learnt that the painting was missing when she called the Museum of Wales to check on it while moving house in January. In court papers, she says she believes that Mr Joll sold the painting to Mr Thune for the bargain price of $250,000 without informing her.

Mr Thune agreed to return the painting to the family because of the threat of further legal action in the American courts. But he was said yesterday to be distressed by the case and seeking reimbursement of the purchase price from Mr Joll.

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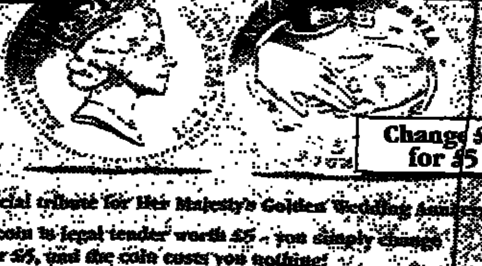

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Zaireans welcome rebel liberators in captured city

Kisangani residents are urging the fighters who freed them from dictatorship to push on for the capital, Kinshasa, reports **David Orr**

THEY are wearing white strips of cloth around their heads in this jungle city which last weekend became the greatest prize to fall to rebels advancing across Zaire. The people say they will not remove the bandanas until the arrival of the rebel leader, Laurent Kabila, who is expected in coming days.

"The headbands symbolise victory and liberation," Paul-Marcel Volakonga, a librarian at the local university, said. "The fighters who freed us from dictatorship are not rebels, they are liberators."

Apart from a few looted shops in the town centre, there is little evidence of the fall of Kisangani to Mr Kabila's Democratic Alliance of Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire. The Zairean Army and its mercenary backers had been expected to resist the rebel assault but instead they fled in panic.

The bulk of the army crossed the Zaire River in boats, residents said. Hundreds of French, Serb, Moroccan and other mercenaries, who had been drafted in to protect the city, either escaped by aircraft westwards or disappeared into the jungle with the Zairean soldiers.

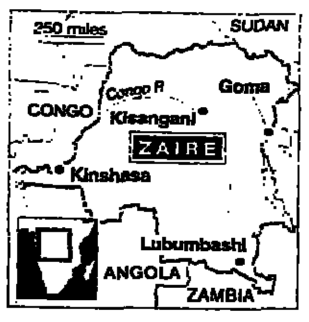
At the military airport an aircraft, its tyres shot out, bears testimony to a gun battle between the retreating mercenaries and soldiers desperate to prevent their allies' flight by air.

"Now all is calm," Mr Volakonga said. "The curfew is over and we can move about the city again. The liberators behave well, they don't beat us as if we were snakes which is what the army did. The mercenaries were cruel, they would just shoot people in cold blood. Their motto was 'No Pity'."

Residents said they were waiting for the establishment of a new administration in Kisangani, Zaire's third largest city and the farthest point west of the rebels' advance.

A decaying city in the depths of the equatorial rainforest, Kisangani has, in this virtually roadless country, a symbolic significance: perched on the banks of the mighty Zaire River, it stands as the gateway to more than 1,000 miles of navigable waterway leading to Kinshasa, the capital.

Kisangani was the redoubt chosen by the Government to launch its counter-offensive and beat back the rebels. Zairean Army commanders boasted it could not be taken.



Its fall, diplomats in the region said, will send shockwaves all the way to Kinshasa, where the population grows daily more fearful of turmoil. There have been rumours in the capital of an imminent coup by the military, which has been humiliated in the five months since the rebel insurgency began.

The collapse of the country is matched by the decline in the health of President Mobutu. News that the cancer-stricken leader has again been hospitalised in France came within days of the fall of Kisangani. Speculation is growing that the President will die in exile and that his corrupt regime will self-destruct in the coming days or weeks.

"It would be good if Mobutu dies," Evariste Lombe, a Kisangani medical student, said. "But it would be even better if he lives to witness his own downfall."

The rebels now control a fifth of this sprawling Central African nation. Residents of Kisangani hope that the rebel force will press its military advantage and take all of the country rather than enter into peace talks that are being initiated by the international community.

"The rebels are strict but they seem fair," Jerry Selenke, an American missionary whose house was looted by the ill-disciplined army before they fled, said. "There's law and order, it's much easier working with the new guys than with the old regime."

Yesterday, Joseph Kabila, son of the rebel movement's leader and a regional commander, gave the residents in Kisangani 48 hours to return all goods looted from abandoned aid agency stores and depots. More than 400 tonnes of material — food, medicine and electrical equipment — was looted by civilians and the retreating army. If they do not comply, they have been told, they will be severely punished. A large amount of the stolen goods have already been returned.

Defector flies to Philippines

By James Pringle

THE most senior official to defect from North Korea, Hwang Jang Yop, arrived yesterday in the Philippines from Beijing, where he had sought asylum five weeks ago, fearing he was about to be purged by political enemies.

He left the South Korean consulate, where he had been sheltering, in a ruse involving three vans making off in different directions to thwart any assassination attempt. Earlier in the saga, North Korean agents had surrounded the consulate and were assumed still to have at least some operatives in the area.

The night-time escape thwarted television teams which had maintained a vigil outside the consulate in one of Beijing's diplomatic compounds since shortly after Mr Hwang, an ideologue who invented North Korea's philosphy of *Juche*, or self reliance, walked out of the North Korean Embassy in the Chinese capital on February 12 and took a taxi to the South Korean consulate.

The Chinese were furious when the South Koreans broke the news in a high-profile manner and Beijing tried to give as little prominence to the incident as possible so as not to embarrass North Korea, an old ally and comrade-in-arms during the Korean War.

Officials in the Philippines said that Mr Hwang flew to Clark airbase, north of Manila, and the South Korean Foreign Ministry said he was "safe, under South Korean control, in a foreign country". China said that the affair had been resolved through negotiations. Envoys believe he will fly on to Seoul after a decent interval, agreed at Beijing's behest so as to allow Pyongang to save some face.

GREG MARINOVICH/AP

Orthodox Jews on the windswept Har Homa hillside as surveyors move in

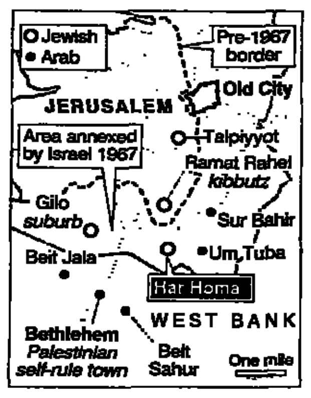
Israeli guns guard start of work on settlement

From Christopher Walker in Jerusalem

HAMAS, the Islamic Resistance Movement, last night called for a new Palestinian intifada after Israel defied world opinion and dispatched bulldozers in a military-style operation to start work on Har Homa, a big settlement in annexed east Jerusalem.

Israeli forces were put on an emergency footing after the Government of Binyamin Netanyahu was told by security chiefs that Yassir Arafat, the Palestinian leader, had given the go-ahead for violent protests among the 2.2 million Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. "We have received very hard intelligence that the Palestinian Authority has prepared the ground for violence," the Prime Minister said. "I demand they reverse these decisions immediately. The Palestinian side must choose, do we want terror or do we want peace?"

As hundreds of troops in full battle gear guarded the earth-moving equipment and police scuffled with Israeli Arabs at the site, declared a "closed military zone", Israeli radio said that joint Israeli-Palestinian security patrols had been halted. As the peace process teetered close to collapse amid fears of widescale violence, the radio said Israel had also declared the self-rule towns of Bethlehem and Hebron out of bounds to Israelis.



Outside Bethlehem the first black smoke of burning tyres, so familiar during the 1987-1993 uprising, could be seen. Palestinian teenagers taunted soldiers.

Hundreds of Israeli police went to east Jerusalem in anticipation of rioting and all police and army leave was cancelled. Assaf Hefetz, the national police chief, said that police were preparing "for the ground to get hot", with officials concerned that Friday's Muslim prayers could spark an explosion.

Faisal Husseini, Mr Arafat's chief Jerusalem representative, was one of those Palestinians whose rain-sodden tent protest at the contested pine-covered hillside was wrongfooted as work began a safe distance away. He said at the camp site opposite Har Homa — which the Arabs call Jabal Abu Ghneim — that the groundbreaking, ordered by Mr Netanyahu after a 45-minute session with his military chiefs, left the Palestinians only one option — "to go down to the streets". The Hamas call for a "continuous intifada" was issued from Jordan by Ibrahim Ghoshe, its spokesman.

☐ **London:** Malcolm Rifkind yesterday sharply condemned the construction, saying it would do nothing but harm to the peace process (Michael Binyon writes). In a personal statement, the Foreign Secretary said the settlement went against the spirit of the Oslo agreement.

British 'advisers' detained in Papua

By Noel Pascoe in Port Moresby and Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent

BRITISH former special forces soldiers were among 40 mercenaries still being held in Papua New Guinea yesterday, despite an order by Sir Julius Chan, the Prime Minister, to release them.

The former British and South African soldiers were caught up in a stand-off between Sir Julius, who hired the foreign military "advisers" to train the country's army to put down a nine-year-old secessionist guerrilla war, and Brigadier-General Jerry Singirok, the Defence Force commander, who has been sacked for trying to expel the mercenaries.

The Foreign Office said it had reports that two or three Britons were among those detained. However, the Foreign Office has criticised the Papua New Guinea Government for using mercenaries to train its military. A Foreign Office source said the secessionist dispute with the Bougainville Revolutionary Army rebels could not be resolved through military action.

The mercenaries are being held at a remote camp near the northern coastal town of Wewak. The foreign "advisers" had been hired after an agreement signed on January 31 between Papua New Guinea and Sandline International, a London-based security consultancy company. Sandline, whose chief executive is Lieutenant-Colonel Tim Spicer, formerly of the Scots Guards, said yesterday that General Singirok had been involved in the deal.

The general's address to the nation, which condemned the use of foreign military advisers and called for the resignation of Sir Julian, contradicted his earlier position, Sandline said. In a statement, the company said: "We are astounded that he would unilaterally seek to destabilise the democratically elected Government with his wildly inaccurate, misleading and untrue claims."

Sandline said General Singirok had consistently supported the contractual terms of the deal. The firm added that it had contacted Sir Julius and had confirmed that its advisory team would remain in the country "as long as we are required".

Most of the mercenaries have been provided by Executive Outcomes, a firm based in Pretoria, South Africa, subcontracted by Sandline.

Sir Julius said yesterday that he was in "absolute control" of the situation and accused Brigadier-General Singirok of "gross insubordination bordering on treason". He could face arrest, he said.

WORLD SUMMARY

German troops in race row

Bonn: Ten German soldiers, earmarked for Bosnia service, were arrested yesterday after attacking an Italian and two Turks with baseball bats and knives (Roger Boyes writes). They were drunk, but serious enough to pull on masks and shout racist slogans.

The assault embarrassed an army command basking in media praise. Having helped to move 103 people out of Albania, its soldiers had been dubbed "German heroes" for the first time in years.

Separatist's news break

Venice: Police started an investigation into how state television's main news broadcast was interrupted by a man urging people in northeast Italy to overthrow the Government. The separatist managed to block out the sound on RAI Uno's evening news bulletin in the Veneto region twice in about 20 minutes and broadcast his own recorded message. *(Reuter)*

Poverty wage for UN maid

Geneva: The most senior UN human rights official paid his Peruvian maid a poverty level wage for two-and-a-half years, (Peter Capella writes). José Ayala Lasso, who has resigned as High Commissioner for Human Rights to become Ecuador's Foreign Minister, paid the maid $800 (£506) a month for working 11½ hours a day on a six-day week.

Cuban drugs general freed

Miami: Cuba has released from prison a former general jailed for 30 years in 1989 for his part in a drug trafficking scandal that shocked Cuba's Communist Party (David Adams writes). Relatives said Brigadier General Patricio de la Guardia, 58, was told he was free soon after hearing of the death of his father, 97.

Amnesty drive on refugees

London: There are 15 million refugees in the world and another 20 million displaced persons forced from their homes but within their national borders, Amnesty International said as it launched a global campaign, condemning the "callous disregard" of governments. *(AFP)*

Filipinos get £240m British bridges

From Abby Tan in Manila

BRITAIN yesterday presented the Philippines with a £240 million project for a network of bridges that promises to alter dramatically the lives of millions of rural Filipinos.

The scheme, involving 218 bridges to be constructed in 70 provinces by the British company Mabey and Johnson, was launched by President Ramos. He was presented with the project by Adrian Thorpe, the British Ambassador, and Mabey and Johnson officials at the presidential palace, where they also wished the Filipino leader a happy 69th birthday.

The bridges, which will be built at the rate of one a day, are designed to withstand natural disasters and to require little maintenance. The Philippines suffers from typhoons, floods and volcanic eruptions.

Mr Ramos said the bridges will spur agricultural production, commercial and tourism activities and directly benefit nearly ten million Filipinos.

The British Government is paying for the project through a grant and soft loan package. Mr Ramos said that the aide had "freed much-needed government resources for other pressing programmes", like upgrading teachers' skills, small-scale enterprises and rural health.

The bridges were christened FVR after the President's initials because, as Mr Thorpe explained, "they are fast to erect, versatile and value-for-money, robust and reliable".

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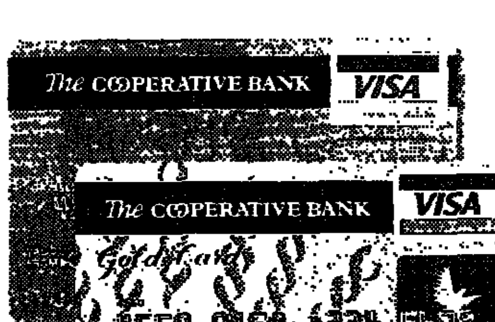

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When size is everything

JANE SHILLING GETS DRESSED

I am not, in general, much given to conspiracy theories, but I have lately begun to wonder about men and their clothes. I mean, if you say to a girl "What size are you", she will instantly reply "ten", or "twelve" or whatever. If the conversation has taken a really technical turn, someone might admit to having a size twelve top half and a size fourteen bottom, or to being a size eight at Jaeger and a size twelve at Miss Selfridge, where the margins are tighter and the clientele skinnier, but that is as complicated as it gets.

All this makes shopping a matter of beautiful simplicity. You wander into a shop, pick up This Season's Prettiest Ruffle-front Frock in cerise georgette overprinted with lime triffids, take it into the fitting-room and — *hey presto!* — it fits. Or possibly not. In which case you try again with the next size up until it does. Really, a child could do it.

In fact with children it is even easier, since all you have to do is remember how old Tarquin is, then purchase the trousers on the hanger that says Age Five. And if they turn out to be six inches too large in every direction, you just roll up the legs until his feet appear and, ignoring his protests, reef in the extra yardage around the waist with one of those useful elastic belts.

Chaps, on the other hand, before they can complete the purchase of a suit, need to have mastered a kind of Venn diagram containing such outlandish measurements as Inside Leg, and Shoulder to Waist Ratio, and Circumference of Thumb. And of course the whole business of measuring all these body parts is so stressful (not to mention, as the years advance, humiliating) that they naturally can't face doing it very often.

So what happens (and this is where the conspiracy theory comes in) is that, gazing fondly at one's Significant Other, one suddenly notices that the shirt he is wearing (which you never really cared for even when it was new, back in 1986) is so badly frayed that the collar appears to have a half-inch fringe. Furthermore, his corduroys have on each thigh a huge bald patch, which makes them look as though they are suffering from mange.

"I can't stand it any more," you say. "You have *GOT* to get some new clothes." Oh darling, he says shiftily, hellish busy all week. I know, why don't you pop out and buy yourself that jumper you've been on about, and pick me up a couple of pairs of strides while you're at it?

Thus it is that you find yourself in the Posh Gents Outfitters, immobilised like a rabbit before a serpent by Darren the Slick Operator, who has every intention of selling you hundreds of quids' worth of clothes, but not before he has given you a really hard time.

"What size is he, then," says Darren. "Big bloke, is he? My sort of build? Or is he more the streamlined type? Like Gary over there. 'Ere, Gazza, look sharp. Come and give the little lady some assistance."

Oh crikey, you say, I suppose he's sort of medium, really. Have you got a shirt in medium, do you think? "Medium," says Darren. "Harharharharhar. That's a good one, that is. Now, you just tell me his neck measurement and we'll see what we can do. Long in the arm, is he? Or normal?"

Oh, really, it is more than flesh and blood can bear. Observing that you thought you were buying a shirt for a man, not an orang-utan, you sweep out, arriving home extremely flustered to a great deal of eye-rolling from your husband, who says that since you have obviously *totally* alienated the staff of the *only* place where he could *contemplate* purchasing an outfit, *most* unfortunately the whole business will have to wait until next year at least…

COMPETITION THE TIMES

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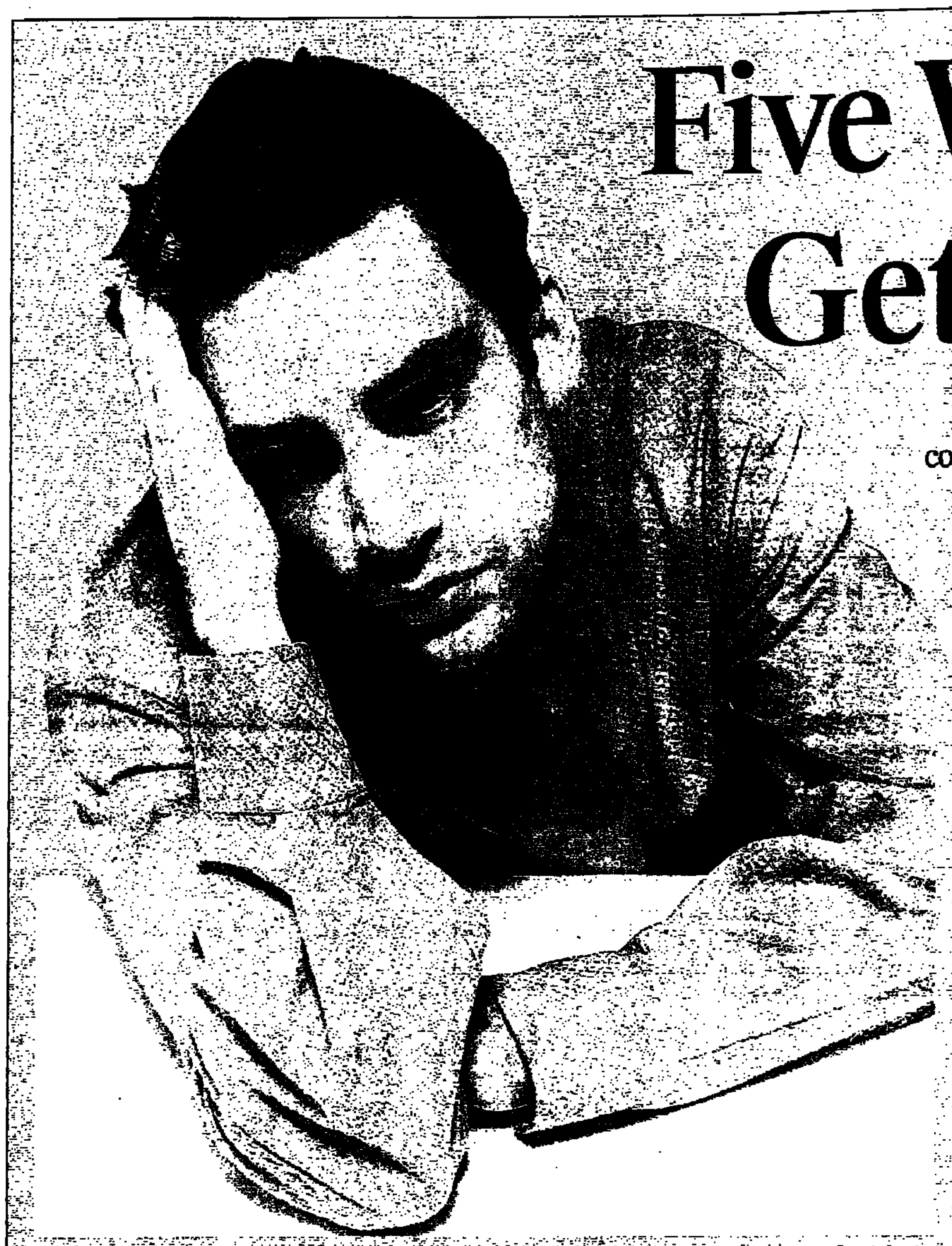
CHANGING TIMES

Five Ways to Get Shirty

From clashing prints to identical colours, **Grace Bradberry** chooses new shirt and tie combinations



Orange patterned shirt, £99, and knit tie, £49, by Paul Smith, 41/43 Floral Street, London WC2

Gucci shirt, £95, and G-logo tie, £60, from Harvey Nichols

Shirt, £85, and tie, £55, by Oswald Boateng, 9 Vigo Street W1

Shirt, £110, and tie, £55, by Richard James, 31 Savile Row, W1

Shirt, £27, and silk tie, £10, from Marks & Spencer

Photographer: KARL GRANT; Stylist: DEBORAH BRETT; Grooming: PASCAL MARIN; Model: FIL HANLEY at So Damn Tuff

Tied-up for the election

Politicians from all parties are choosing the same neckwear

WHEN the suit is dull and dark, and the shirt bland, a man's only means of self-expression is his tie. And for the electorate, it is the only sartorial guide to the personalities that lurk beneath.

How unfortunate then that the leaders of the two main parties, whose policies are already distressingly similar, should also have plumped for such similar neckwear.

Geometric patterns currently have a particular allure for British politicians. Even Dafydd Wigley, President of Plaid Cymru, and Alex Salmond, leader of the Scottish National Party, could not resist wearing little squares all over their ties — and in doing so, they revealed a surprising cultural unity with their English counterparts.

The chances are that all these men consider that they are wearing an "interesting" tie. They doubtless rejected a plain one on the ground that it would look dull. But they were not about to go all swirly and psychedelic on the first day of the general election campaign.

John Major and Tony Blair favour geometric patterns

Oh no, leave the LSD trip tie to some other poor fool. Likewise the large lemons and winking pinks that pass for humour in large City banks.

A previous generation, would have opted for stripes. But these now come with too much social baggage. They smack either of Essex-man aspirations or of old school ties.

John Major, the boy from Brixton, can scarcely wear one to mount the soapbox, and Tony Blair is seeking to play down his public school background.

Mary Spillane, the image consultant behind Colour Me Beautiful, says that a geometric *foulard*, the name for a repeated pattern, is really the only option: "If you look at what's around, then geometric designs, flowers and stripes are the most prevalent. A politician might as well shoot himself in the foot as wear flowers.

"At the last election, Labour went for great big personality ties — and it was difficult to concentrate on what they were saying."

Closer inspection reveals tiny differences between the two leaders: Mr Blair's squares wobble slightly at the edges. Mr Major's don't.

But who knows, as the election approaches, the politicians may reveal their true colours. Mr Blair might come out in Prada tone-on-tone — red-on-red perhaps, or even blue-on-blue.

GRACE BRADBERRY
Style Editor

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WHAT ELSE?

A woman simply can't win in court

Why Tania Clayton had to be a victim to prove her case

Nigella Lawson

Every time a woman wins a sexual harassment case, the air grows thick with gibes of wimp and whinger — and that's just from the female commentators.

I think it would be difficult for anyone, however, even the most hardboiled of vinegar-lipped observers, to put up a convincing argument against Tania Clayton, the fire officer who has just won (in an out-of-court settlement) £200,000 to compensate her for five years of bullying and victimisation at work. Her colleagues were undoubtedly wrong to behave as they did; she was undoubtedly right to try to do something about it.

And yet . . . and yet . . . *five years?* One is not supposed to ask of battered wives why they stay to be battered — as if the question itself blames them for the battering. But why so? Anyway, it is not my intention to hold Mrs Clayton accountable for the behavior of her bully-boy colleagues, but I still cannot imagine what made her put up with it for so long.

I understand that the need to earn a living makes keeping the job you have the dominant imperative. Even more, I assume that, as with women who are attacked at home, those who are bullied at work receive such a blow to their self-esteem that they don't have the confidence to make a stand.

Unfortunately, though, whatever the psychological explanation, the fact that she did put up with it for so long means that the intimidation tactics of her colleagues did, in effect, work: if they victimised her, it is now indeed the case that her status, in the eyes of the world, is that of victim. In order to win, she has had to prove that. How demoralising to have to win justice at the cost of your reputation.

I can see, though, that it would have been more of a blow if Mrs Clayton hadn't won: then it would have seemed as if the taunts were OK.

I know that it is often just a cheap trick to cite the American way as evidence of a world gone seriously awry in matters of reason and comportment, but it is hard to see, by comparison, what Paula Jones hopes to gain (except for a great deal of money) by suing Bill Clinton for sexual harassment.

This is a very different case: Jones claims Clinton made improper advances in a hotel room in 1991, as a consequence of which she was left feeling "mentally raped". While there are people being physically raped I am afraid I haven't got much time for such self-pitying, attention-seeking whines.

What is more, the self-styled victim is now claiming that all she wants is to have her reputation restored. This is an odd one. If her allegations of assault are genuine — or if even if they are just upheld — then what loss of reputation can she deem there to be? And if they are unfounded and the grievances she chose to publicise by doing the rounds of the chat-show circuit are groundless, then any damage to her reputation is of her own doing.

Not that things are any clearer over here concerning such matters. The proliferation of so-called date-rape cases is intensely worrying. Rape is an awful offence, and I don't see how sex with a fellow student you don't much like comes into that category. There is still the problem of reputation; I understand how it could ruin an innocent man's life if he is accused of rape. Despite a court's verdict, the idea that there's no smoke without fire prevails. We all know that.

I know there is a very good argument against allowing the defendant the same anonymity guaranteed to the plaintiff in such cases. I do see that it goes against the principles of democratic justice to have secret, closed trials. If you start with rape cases, why not murder? Before you know it, we're living in Idi Amin-land.

But I can't help thinking that if many more weak, unconvincing so-called date rape cases are brought, it will be not only innocent men who lose their reputation, but even more innocent women, too. For not only will the real victims of rape be increasingly treated with suspicion and contempt, but so will women in general.

The law deems someone's reputation to have been harmed if the offence is such as to "expose him [our legal system clings to "him"] to hatred, ridicule or contempt, cause him to be shunned or avoided, or lowered him in the estimation of right-thinking people". How long will it be before defendants in rape cases which are not upheld start suing for loss of reputation?

CHRIS WARDE-JONES

Tim Parks: "Never does the world seem so freshly painted, so brightly enamelled, so new, for heaven's sake, as after the best sex. But, alas, it may be full of new complications, too"

When temptation strikes

MEN ONLY

The road to erotic passion can end in confusion, says **Tim Parks**

If Brahma is a more endearing creator than Jehovah, it is because he wasn't pleased with what he had made. He found the world dull and dusty. Death was the answer, suggested Siva. Living for ever, people were bored. A time limit would galvanise, give dignity. But in that case some way of replacing the population would have to be found.

Brahma brought together a few trusted fellows and explained what was required. The pleasure took them by surprise. What was that for? To put a fresh shine on the world, they were told. Otherwise it might get dusty again.

I'm always taken aback when people talk about the eroticism of food and drink, of sunbathing and massage. This is mere sensuality. Or avoiding the issue. No experience even remotely compares with true Eros, with long and lavish love-making. It is understandable that people should imagine it was tacked on to creation afterwards, so extravagant is the pleasure it brings, so far beyond what is necessary. Never does the world seem so freshly painted, so brightly enamelled, so new, for heaven's sake, as after the best sex. But, alas, it may be full of new complications, too. A lesser authority than Brahma would have issued a health warning.

Over billiards and beer, a friend is explaining why he is leaving his wife and two children. He's playing with unusual speed and precision. His eyes are brighter than the beer could account for. And the girl is 23, he explains. French. So intelligent. "Intelligently pert breasts?" I inquire. "Perceptively warm thighs?"

He laughs. He is deliriously proud, confused, unhappy. "I feel I was never really in love with my wife," he says.

Eroticism paints out the past. In this sense it is the most potent myth-making and myth-destroying power we have. How those first encounters are told and retold, cherished and savoured over and over again. How solid and irreplaceable they begin to seem. I did this, you said that. When your hand first . . . When your mouth . . . Beneath the superstructure of domestic economy, in-laws, even children, it is on this bedrock that marriage rests. But only once? Is it never to happen again? Suddenly solid ground is quicksand.

"As soon as I'm in the door, I feel suffocated. I married too young." Thus Franco, potting the black. "I never experienced real passion." Before *la jeune fille très intelligente*, he means. He is smoking, too, this evening. I have never seen him smoke before. "I feel I will die if I go home." I ask him if he wants more children. He doesn't. "Perhaps it's all a terrible mistake," he says, "but at least I will have had this passion." Should I tell him that when we first met he had seemed very passionate about his wife?

Women. Another Indian myth — sexist, if you wish to be offended — has it that when the gods became scared of a man, scared of his developing spiritual powers, they would send him a woman. Or they might send Indra to seduce his wife and make him jealous. In either case, the turbulent feelings would disperse the power he had accumulated. So Franco, whose expertise once took him round all the capitals of Europe, now finds his life in pieces. Lawyers, quarrels, returns, departures. Then more women, too. For if marriage has a way of declining into dusty routine, myth-making, too, can lapse into tawdry chronicle.

Eroticism has this in common with an addictive drug: that there is a coercive element to its pleasure with which part of us is in complicity, and part not. Thus, men have always tried to enjoy eroticism without being destroyed by it.

Societies, religions can be defined in the way they deal with this conundrum. Polygamy, monogamy with repression, monogamy with affairs, monogamy with prostitutes, serial monogamy. Not to mention individual solutions of great ingenuity, or desperation: Victor Hugo with the door knocked through the wall of his office, to let in a girl each afternoon. Auden's flair for finding call-boys in every town. Picasso, who simply refused when wife and mistress demanded that he choose between them.

But perhaps the thing to remember when you wake up with a life full of fresh paint and tortuous complications is that eroticism wasn't invented for you, nor merely for the survival of the species, perhaps, but for a divinity's entertainment. Nothing generates so many opportunities for titillation and *Schadenfreude* as eroticism. Which is why it lies at the centre of so much narrative. How the gods thronged the balconies of heaven to see the consequences of Helen's betrayal! On the borders between mythology and history, that wily survivor Odysseus was the first who learnt to trick the gods. And perhaps his smartest trick of all was that of lashing himself to the mast before the Sirens came within earshot. There are those, of course, who are happy to stand at the railings, even scan the horizon. Otherwise, choose your mast, find the ropes that suit you: sport, workaholism, celibacy with prayerbook and bell . . . But the kindest and toughest ropes of all are probably to be found in some surburban semi-detached with rowdy children and a woman who never allows the dust to settle for too long.

- *Tim Parks's novel* Europa *is published by Secker & Warburg on April 14, £9.99.*

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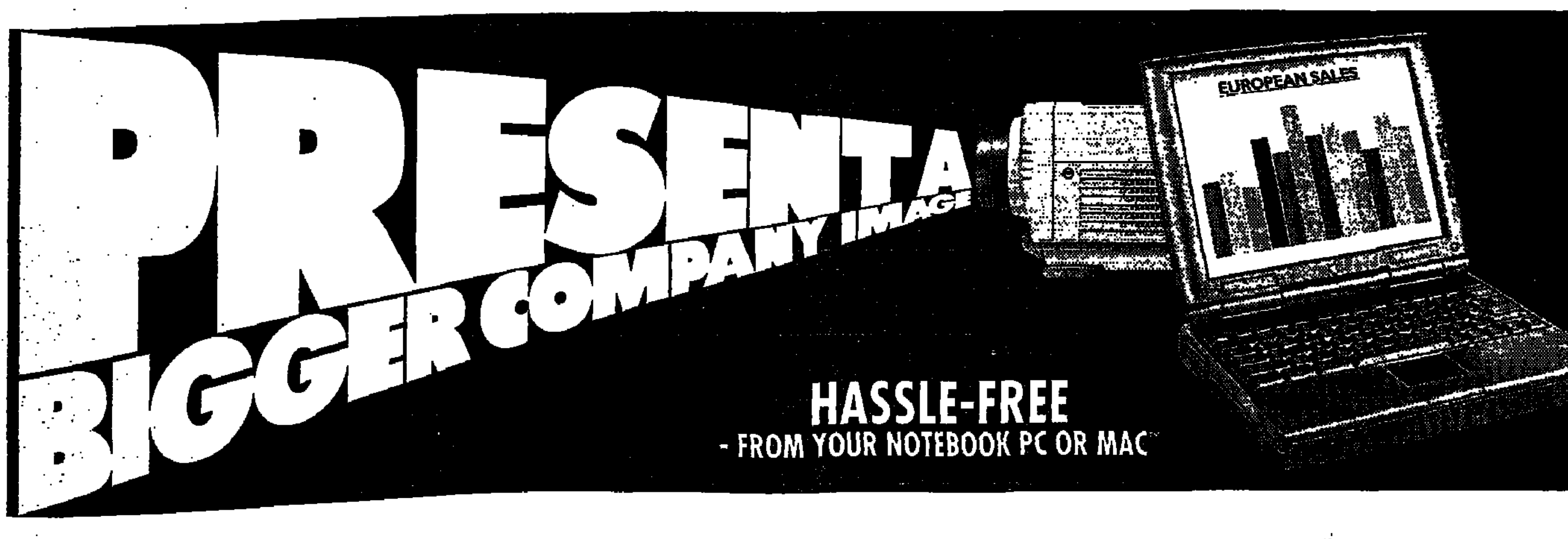

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Is Kosovo the Albanian apocalypse?

Timothy Garton Ash visits a province waiting to erupt

As Albania has descended into mayhem, Nato planners have agonised over the possibility of violence spilling into neighbouring Kosovo, where nearly two million Albanians live under Serb rule.

No one I spoke to in the dusty, battered and depressed province of Kosovo last week suggested that an Albanian insurrection was imminent. Even if large quantities of small arms were to be smuggled in from the plundered arsenals of Albania, the heavily armed and professionally trained Serb army could wreak terrible vengeance. "You see," both Serbs and Albanians told me, with chilling matter-of-factness, "there are some 700 purely Albanian villages. So the people there could all be killed."

Yet everyone speaks of the longer-term possiblity of war — and the seeming impossibility of any peaceful solution. Kosovo has traditionally been regarded by Serbs as the mystical heartland of their great medieval state and national identity, their "Jerusalem". (How much of this is myth and how much reality we shall learn next year with the publication of a history of Kosovo by Noel Malcolm, author of *Bosnia: A Short History*.) In the 1980s, it was an autonomous province in the former Yugoslavia, with a largely Albanian population and administration. Many of the remaining Serbs were leaving, often being forced out.

Ten years ago, Slobodan Milosevic came to Kosovo and told the local Serbs "No one should dare to beat you!" With this battle-cry, he mounted the Serb nationalist horse and rode it — ably assisted by politicians of other nationalities, and especially by the Croat Franjo Tudjman — to the bloody destruction of Yugoslavia. Kosovo itself was placed under direct Serb administration. The Kosovar Albanians responded by declaring an independent Republic of Kosovo and holding extraordinary underground elections in which a majority voted for the "Democratic League of Kosovo". Its leader, Ibrahim Rugova, became "President of the Republic".

His headquarters is a large hut in the middle of a dusty bus-station, full of picture-book hawkers and spitters. At the door I was incongruously met by the "head of protocol" who ushered me in to see "the President". Mr Rugova told me about the underground state: the 18,000 schoolteachers it funds from unofficial taxes, which the Kosovar Al*banians pay in addition to the* official Serb ones, the independent university, the attempt at healthcare through an organisation named after Mother Teresa. (Later, I visited a state school divided by an internal Berlin Wall, so that Serb and Albanian children should never meet.) Mr Rugova's immediate demand is merely for an alleviation of the repression. While the Serb police dare not touch him, they regularly harass low-level activists. He insists on Gandhi-esque peaceful means, and has explicitly cautioned his followers against following the example of armed insurrection across the border. But on the central goal *he is quite unyielding:* self-determination for his people, statehood for the republic which he claims already exists.

His main rival, Adem Demaci, sometimes called "the Albanian Mandela" on account of his 28 years in prison, sat opposite me on a chair in his new party headquarters, and, Gandhi-like, pulled up his legs into the lotus position. He might be prepared to settle for slightly less than Rugova: a republic within a very loose confederation with Serbia and Montenegro. But he wants *more dramatic protest actions* to achieve it. He has called on his followers to imitate the student and opposition demonstrators in Belgrade.

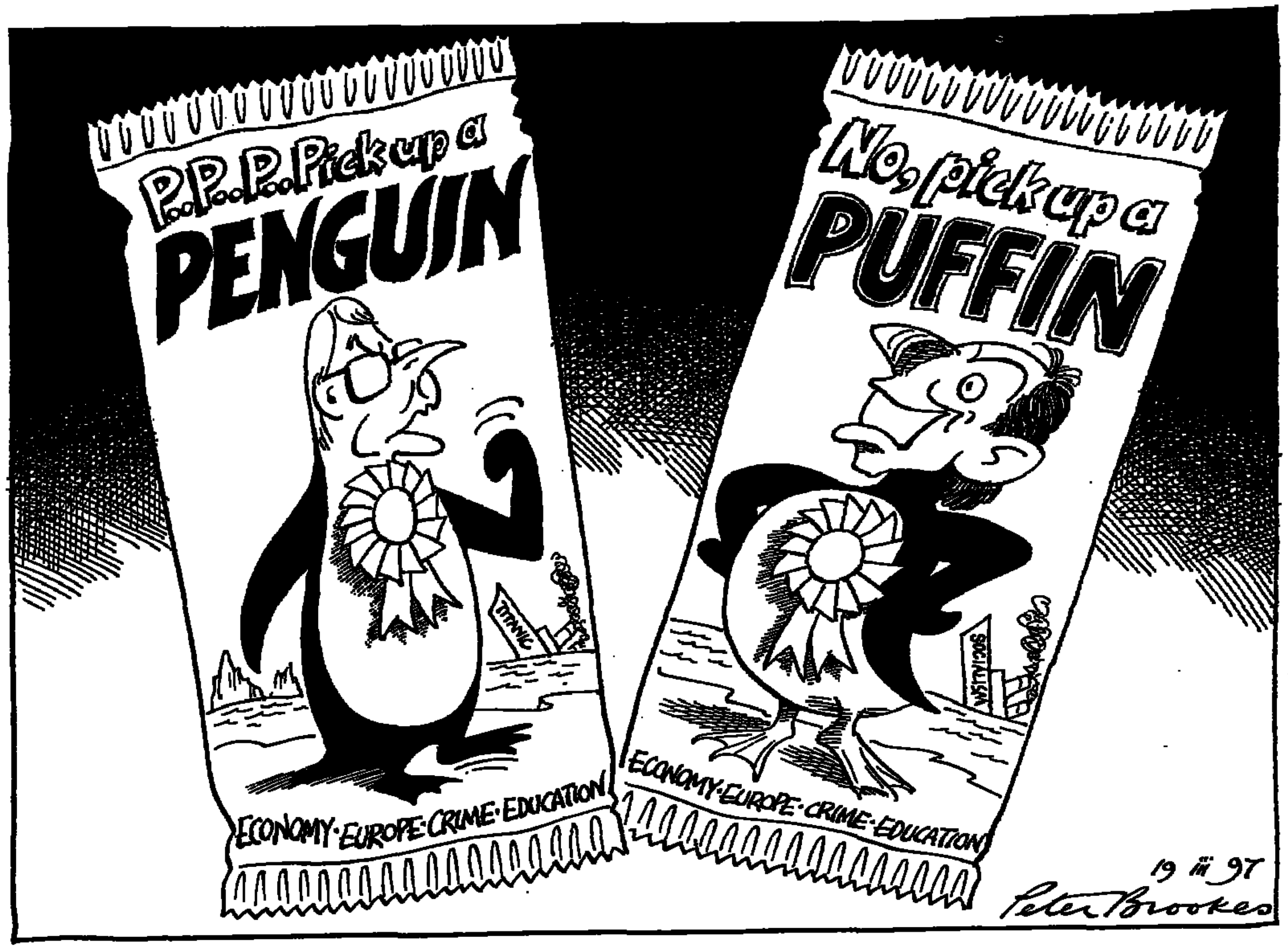
That is the Kosovar Albanian mainstream. But in the past year there have also been *a number of terrorist attacks*, with responsibility claimed by a Kosovo Liberation Army. Are these the work of impatient young radicals, like the young Palestinians in Gaza? Or — for this is the Balkans — are they actually secretly encouraged by the Serbian leader? Back in Belgrade, even sober political observers speculate that a cornered Milosevic, faced with total economic collapse and *massive* popular calls for his resignation, might in desperation play the Kosovo card, provok*ing a terrorist assault or* armed rising which he could then heroically suppress.

> Milosevic might yet play the Kosovo card

This may be far-fetched. But Kosovo remains a terrible problem for the diverse opposition parties in the Zajedno ("Together") coalition, which have won power in many cities and are gearing up for Serbian republican elections later this year. Not only are they far from together on this issue, but even those who privately want to concede most of the Kosovar Albanian demands feel that to do so publicly would be political suicide in a country still suffused with national self-pity.

Some have suggested a peaceful partition of Kosovo, giving Serbia its holy places, the mineral resources and main areas of Serb settlement, but these are not compactly contiguous with the mother country. How the line could be drawn without bloodshed and large transfers of population, as in Bosnia, no one has yet explained.

Pathetically, people still look to the West, to "Europe" and *above all* to America for a solution. An international conference has been proposed, but who would now put their faith in the so-called "international community" and its endless mediators and conferences? I left with a horrible feeling that here, too, the lines may be drawn first in blood. And the Yugoslav tragedy that began in Kosovo *may* yet end *in* Kosovo, in this faraway province of which we still know nothing.



PACKAGING RULED TO BE TOO SIMILAR (Court case)

It's the voters wot win it

Politicians pay court to editors, but how much power do papers wield?

Simon Jenkins

So it's all over bar the shouting. It's *The Sun* wot wins it. As of yesterday, it's *The Sun* wot's won it. In 1995 Tony Blair flew to see Rupert Murdoch in Australia to audition as Prime Minister. The great man approved. Blessing was conferred. New Labour, old Commonwealth. No deals on media ownership, of course. Nothing so crude. These are honourable men who do not nod, nor even wink. Their treaties are fashioned on the wind and written of air, and are the closer for it. Yesterday the mighty organ swung left. Mr Blair's press officer, Alastair Campbell, achieved his amb*ition, to see a Labour Sun rising over* Wapping. He has earned his peerage and the chairmanship of Burnley Football Club. The election is over.

Up to a point, your lordship. The 1970 election was the last in which *The Sun* came out for Labour, just after Mr Murdoch bought the paper. The nation defied the pollsters and voted Tory. I doubt if the electorate will be so indisciplined this time. But Mr Murdoch told Mr Blair two years ago that if their flirtation were ever consummated "we will end up making love like two porcupines, very carefully". If I were Mr Blair I might prefer *The Sun* the way it was.

Yet news that this one paper had come out for Labour sent the BBC into a frenzy of excitement. The *Today* programme could not conceal its glee. If a foreign proprietor had taken a Labour icon and turned it Tory, there would have been howls of outrage about foreign interference in British politics, not least from the Labour Party. This time, I heard not a peep about proprietorial interference from Labour or the BBC. We can only marvel at the infinite mutability of human affairs.

There is nothing like a general election to plunge the upmarket media into an obsession with working-class opinion. Pundits traipse the *provinces which they know only as* constituency names. So-called "ordinary people" are dragged like Fidelio's prisoners into the political daylight. They are granted a soundbite of their choice before being herded back in the slammer.

At such moments, the world becomes fascinated by the editorial juices of *The Sun*. Most other papers are known territory, pro-Labour or pro-Tory. *The Sun* is a riddle inside an enigma. Its image of eccentric independence comes not just from offshore ownership and vast circulation. The paper is deemed to enjoy a hotline to the mental processes of the British proletariat, albeit mostly through the latter's nether regions.

Such vast readership must bespeak a vaster power. Since *The Sun*'s own mental processes are often hard to fathom, politicians invest them with the wisdom of Delphos. They wait outside the temple, on steps incarnadine with *ministerial sacrifice*, while *proprietor and Editor enter into* conclave. The fate of the nation is held to depend on the outcome.

The rising status of the media is a much-noted feature of British politics. Every memoir testifies to this. The principal reason is the Prime Minister's sensitivity to press criticism. None of *his* predecessors has been quite so thin-skinned. His remark yesterday dismissing *The Sun*'s move as less important than the media thinks brought a hollow laugh from editors accustomed to Mr Major's telephone calls complaining at the most trivial slight and pleading for kinder treatment. An Editor of *The Sun* once *replied* by telling Mr Major that a large bucket of turd would be on his desk next morning.

The Prime Minister is like an actor who starts each day by re-reading his worst reviews. Political comment is by its nature not flattering to politicians. For Mr Major to start work with such ritual self-abasement must be debilitating. Yet he is addicted to the punishment and reference to it peppers his off-the-cuff utterances. *His staff cannot rid him of the habit.*

The reason is that Mr Major has isolated himself from most of the traditional conduits of Downing Street peer-group review. He has all but disbanded his party in local government. Central Office organisation and research department are pale shadows of their old selves. Elder statesmen are not consulted, and unsycophantic backbenchers are treated as enemies, possibly lunatics.

Mr Major is left only with the press. It offers the one independent running commentary on the Cabinet's performance. The Tory press is treated as a stand-alone proxy for Tory supporters in the country. Harassed ministers accord it ridiculous over-importance, in part because their boss does. After the 1992 victory, Lord McAlpine of West Green heaped credit on the tabloids. He said they won the election for the Tories, and if politicians "in their hour of *victory are tempted to believe otherwise they are in very real trouble next* time". This is bizarre. Just as Downing Street expects the whips to deliver the Commons majority, so it seems to expect the Tory press to deliver the nation. Tabloid front pages are portrayed as the Eatanswill of our age.

This is hooey. The search for the cause of the Tories' narrow 1992 election victory has yielded a mountain of research, on the grotesque premiss that credit could not possibly go to Mr Major himself. The principal evidence pointing to *The Sun* was marshalled by Brian MacArthur and Martin Linton, drawn from MORI data gathered in the last *week of the campaign. It showed a* 4 per cent switch to the Tories among *Sun* readers, ostensibly in response to its strident pro-Tory campaign, compared with lesser swings for *Express* and *Mail* readers. *Sun* readers formed almost half the electorate in key marginals such as Basildon. Hence the extra swing was taken as highly significant. On this basis, the paper could be claimed as moving 200,000 votes from Labour to Tory.

This view has not gone unchallenged. In *Labour's Last Chance*, John Curtice and Holli Semetko polled a large panel of voters during the campaign. They found a small swing from Labour to the Liberal Democrats and a smaller one to the Conservatives. But this did not occur among readers of pro-Tory tabloids, who, if anything, swung away from the Tories, a finding that appears to conflict with MORI. "There was no evidence from our panel," wrote the authors, "that there was any relationship between vote-switching during the election campaign and the partisanship of a voter's newspaper." Curtice and Semetko pointed out that newspaper readers are now *notoriously inclined to shift papers* in response to non-political inducements, a fact well-known to editors. Who knows what voting pattern they take with them. Nor can we really tell how many voters *might switch at election time to papers* that better accord with their own views.

Newspapers love to be credited with far-seeing wisdom. Yet when *The Sun* was accused of exerting huge influence *in 1992, it answered that this was "an insult to the* 14 *million people who voted* Conservative". Such disclaimers should be treated like those of television producers denying that their sex and violence films could possibly *influence viewers. If those who run the* media really believe they have no influence over their consumers, why don't they say so to their advertisers?

My own view is that the support of the press is certainly better than a poke in the eye, especially given the enforced impartiality of broadcasting. If I were a politician I would rather have a newspaper with me than against me, as much for my own morale as for any putative influence over the electorate. The relationship between politicians and papers is that of lover and wayward *mistress*. The latter is always on the point of leaving. Rows are always painful. Never in recent history has the Tory *press been so persistently hostile to a* Tory government as it has since 1992. The affair has gone on too long and grown stale. *The Sun*'s editorial — a gem of terse prose — might have been written of just such an affair: "The Tories have all the right policies but all the wrong faces . . . after 18 years, they have become sloppy, divided and tired . . . they need time to sort themselves out."

The Tories' best hope is that readers of *The Sun* have dissembled to the pollsters all along. They never noticed its politics. They will not start now. But then only fools and buck-passers blame the press for election results. Newspapers are about oiling democracy's wheels, not replacing them. They may try to relieve the voters of their sovereignty. But the voters have a cussed habit of making up their own minds. They defied prediction in 1945, 1970 and 1992.

The only way to tolerate the next six weeks is to treat the race as deliciously open — or go to bed and stay there.

Alan Coren

Wish me luck as you wave me goodbye

Monday, March 17

Dear Diary: One is a bit glum. One has just said goodbye to one's Prime Minister, and one's Prime Minister did that endearingly awkward little bow he does, and gave that charming little smile he gives, and the door closed, and now one hears the creak of the fourth stair as his shoe depresses it, such a sensible shoe, so shined, so neatly laced, almost certainly made in Northampton, and one is decidedly feeling a trifle low. One rather suspects that the next Prime Minister might wear frightfully famous *Italian* loafers with those little tassels on. The sort dogs snap at.

The object of his visit was to inform one that the date of the general election was to be May 1. He made a little joke about Labour Day, as one would expect of him. One rather fears one has heard the last of his quite excellent little jokes: one will always remember that delightful story about the Irish chicken and the road. How one laughed! One rather suspects that the next Prime Minister might not tell jokes with Irish chickens in them. The greater likelihood is that he will tell very long jokes indeed, of which one will never entirely grasp the point.

One observes that one's Prime Minister did not eat his second Hob-Nob. That is uncharacteristic of him. Perhaps he is a bit glum, too. As he has so often told one, he is very partial to a Hob-Nob. Not quite as partial, mind, as he used to be to the squashed-fly biscuit, about the disappearance of which one was once given a most illuminating lecture. It seems they cannot be obtained in any of the Huntingdon supermarkets for love or money. One rather suspects this not to be a subject upon which the next Prime Minister would be able to shed any light. Worse, one fears he might try to interest one in polenta. Or squid.

Or Web sites. One has heard that he is eager to put all one's loyal subjects onto this. One has, of course, just been put onto it oneself, but one does not have the faintest idea what it is, except that one's loyal subjects may now access, one believes the word is, one's soft furnishings, pictures, pot plants, and so forth. One is not entirely happy with this. One's current Prime Minister never raised fashionable technologies. We did, however, discuss our first bicycles in some depth. By happy chance, we both owned Rudges. His had drop handlebars and three speeds and a panier which held two bottles of Tizer and enough bread pudding for four people, though it lacked a dynamo, because these cost £2 6s 3d, and he was saving up for new pads. It seems the buckles on his old *ones came undone when he ran.* He is most enlightening about cricket: one had never quite understood the googly, before. One rather suspects the next Prime Minister might not be interested in cricket at all. Football seems to be his game — one has seen him, on the television, actually playing it. One fears the worst for future weekly chats: one has scant interest in soccer, especially since One's Park Rangers were relegated.

One also understands that the next Prime Minister is a member of Trimdon Colliery and Deaf Hill Working Men's Club, which one somehow doubts to be a prime source of jolly anecdote. One could, one supposes, inquire how Deaf Hill came by its name, but the likelihood is that the next Prime Minister would prefer to address matters of greater pith. He went to Oxford and is rumoured to be something of a thinker, whereas the current Prime Minister and one have three O levels and an ATS diploma in lorry-maintenance between us: a situation which, how might one put it, does much to prevent us from boring one another stiff.

And then there is the matter of wives.

One has just peeked from the window, Diary, and watched him walking to his motor car with that special little lope of his. One will rather miss that lope. Oh, see, he has given his special *little* grin to the driver. One will rather miss that grin. And the way he settles his spectacles with his forefinger. And the way he says "wunt". Such a very nice man. How difficult it must be for one's loyal subjects to cast their vote! One is really rather grateful, all things considered, not to have one.

Surprise pitch

AFTER more than 45 years on Westminster's green benches, one would not expect Tony Benn, MP for Chesterfield, to resort to political gimickry to secure his return at the election. Benn was spotted the other day with a hydrangea-sized blue rosette in his buttonhole, watching a football match.

From David Mellor, this kind of laddish behaviour wouldn't raise an eyebrow. But from Benn, a pipe-smoking tea-drinker, it is unusual in the extreme.

He had turned out to watch Chesterfield Football Club beat Wrexham in the quarter-finals of the FA Cup earlier this month, donning their blue and white.

Yesterday, local supporters said they could not remember seeing Tony Benn at the ground before. Sheffield Wednesday supporter and fellow Labour MP Roy Hattersley was scathing. "I imagine it's the first time he's been to a football match in his life," he said. "He was sporting cheap rosettes and looking absolutely ridiculous."

Mr Benn, however, insisted that he supports his constituency team and has previously watched them play at Wembley. He said he was delighted by their success in the FA Cup. "They've had an electric influence on the town. Everyone's walking ten-feet tall. I'll follow them to Old Trafford to watch them against Middlesbrough."

● *A dutiful cleaner at an Amsterdam art gallery swept up a pile of ash and cigarette butts. He wasn't to know they represented the work of Japanese sculptor Keito Ato intended to express "the smoker's dilemma when he knows he should stop but can't".*

Benn: new colours?

Head man

PAPUA NEW GUINEA'S insistence on hiring a British mercenary force to help to put down a long-running insurrection, as reported in yesterday's *Times*, will have come as little surprise to Jeremy Hanley, MP — a man who goes down big in the South Pacific.

Visiting the country in October, *he was accorded a personal guard* armed with a bow and arrow and wearing little more than a skirt of feathers and a Group 4 Security armband.

Though happy in the custody of his warrior, Hanley was alarmed by a conversation that he happened to overhear between the British High Commissioner's wife and the Governor General's wife. "I *have three children*," said the former, "a banker, a lawyer, and a headhunter." The latter nodded. "Yes, we have many headhunters over here too."

● *The politically correct are tightening their grip at the BBC. A documentary tonight on the Fens presented by my colleague Jonathan Meades originally bore the lively title* Land of the Superdykes. *For fear of putting off certain viewers, it was renamed* Double Dutch.

THE TIMES DIARY

Walk on

RAMBLERS in Gloucestershire would be well advised to avoid Gatcombe Park, where they risk a frosty reception from its chateleine, the Princess Royal. Interviewed in this week's *Stroud News*, a tremendous local rag, she has little time *for the anoracked classes.*

"Farmers are not wardens who manage a whole load of paths for . . . scramblers and ramblers," she says, adding that bridleways should be reserved for "horse-drawn traffic".

Her dislike of pedestrian thoroughfares put her off buying Highgrove, now home to her brother the Prince of Wales, when she was house-hunting 10 years ago. "There was a footpath running through the middle which we had no chance of moving."

Revelatory

IN THE front row yesterday morning at Labour's first full press conference of the election campaign was the Tory MP Jerry Hayes's homosexual former researcher Paul Stone. After his unsavoury revelations in the *News of the World*, Stone has moved over to Labour and claims to have been in *touch with several Labour MPs.*

"If I could be useful to Tony Blair and the party I would love to help," he said by way of an explanation for his attendance. "They're a lot better on gay issues and if I can do anything to publicise these, then I will." By last night Labour was denying all knowledge of his interest. "We've no one registered under that name, and no one remembers seeing him there," said an official.

Late smile

FINALLY, there is a glimmer of a smile on the face of Michael "Captain Grumpy" Atherton, as a result of a posthumous gift from the late Willie Rushton, cartoonist and satirist. In a rare moment of leisure, Atherton was browsing through some prints in a London art gallery last weekend when the establishment's owner handed him a Rushton original of left-arm spinner Phil Tufnell.

"I couldn't have asked him to pay," says Jack Duncan, founder *of the William Rushton archive.* "Willie was a mad-keen cricketer and would have been honoured for the England captain to have it." Fixture list permitting, Atherton has agreed to open a Rushton retrospective planned by Mr Duncan later this year.

P·H·S

PUBLISH OR BE DAMNED

Sleaze cannot be kept under wraps until after the election

The calling of the election has seen attention, naturally, move from Westminster to the hustings. But important judgments at the polls depend on business which Parliament seems fated not to finish. In preparation for the campaign, the Commons is busying itself with tying up loose ends. There is, one which has been left hanging, like a suspended noose. The report by Sir Gordon Downey into the "cash for questions" allegations against Neil Hamilton and others will not, now, be published until after the election. It is insupportable that an investigation as important as this should, after the months lavished on it, spend the election under lock and key. When democracy needs them most, watchdogs should not be kept in quarantine.

No one is well-served by the suppression of this report. The electors of Tatton will be invited to pass their own sentence on Mr Hamilton at the polls, without having heard the evidence which might either condemn or exonerate him. The Tories have claimed collectively, as loudly as Mr Hamilton has individually, that they have been unfairly tarnished by sleaze. The one document which might, however, restore some confidence will languish unread for the duration of the campaign.

The Liberal Democrat MP Simon Hughes pointed out yesterday that it is John Major's dissolution timing which apparently precludes publication. Voters may believe that the Prime Minister could have been motivated by a desire to suppress the report. If so, far from limiting the damage that sleaze might cause, he has only given voters another reason to suspect sharp practice. Mr Major surely cannot want this election to proceed with his candidates awaiting Sir Gordon's judgment.

When the inquiry was set up, in defiance of opposition calls for a full tribunal, Mr Major said he did not want this matter to be sent into "the long grass". That, however, is where matters now rest and the Prime Minister cannot hide behind parliamentary procedure. Sir Gordon, working a four-day week, has hardly been the Stakhanov of the committee corridors but the primary fault is not his, but the Government's. Lord Nolan may investigate matters after the election but the Tories should want to present the voters with a clean bill of health, not a post-mortem. If the Conservatives want to preserve their reputation they should publish, or be damned.

Although the electorate is short-changed by the non-appearance of the report, the most conspicuous victim is Mr Hamilton. It is difficult to inspire sympathy for the former minister, but in this matter he deserves his portion. The uncontested evidence of his stay at the Paris Ritz at Mohamed Al Fayed's expense and his relationship with the lobbyist Ian Greer raise worrying questions about his judgment. They are not, however, central to the charge against him of corruption. The allegation that Mr Hamilton accepted cash for asking parliamentary questions is bitterly contested.

The main evidence against Mr Hamilton on this charge has, so far, come from Mr Al Fayed and his employees. Thirteen days ago his extraordinary allegation that the Home Secretary had accepted a £1.5 million bribe was "authoritatively" dismissed by Sir Gordon, who found no evidence to support Mr Al Fayed's claims. Sir Gordon is not the first investigator to find Mr Al Fayed's evidence less than reliable. If the electors of Tatton want to know whether or not their Member is a "liar and a cheat" before deciding to vote for him, they cannot, on past record, take Mr Al Fayed's word for it. They need Sir Gordon's.

LAKE IN THE DRINK

Fundraising scandal claims its first political victim

With the withdrawal of Anthony Lake as his prospective CIA Director, President Clinton has suffered the first outright political defeat of his second term. There has been much protest and anger from the Oval Office about the allegedly unfair treatment of its nominee. A poisonous atmosphere of pure partisanship has been blamed for the demise of a clearly qualified candidate. The confirmation process has been condemned as an impediment to the recruitment of worthy citizens to serve in public office.

Much of this is disingenuous. Mr Lake was always a controversial choice to head the Central Intelligence Agency. His background is in the academic world rather than the defence community from which such figures have usually been drawn. He had, at best, a modest record as National Security Adviser in Mr Clinton's first term. During that tenure he had concealed from Congress his knowledge that Iran was providing military assistance to Bosnia's Muslims.

The President moved him from that post as part of a wide-ranging restructuring of his foreign policy team and offered him the CIA position as an alternative. The previous incumbent, John Deutch, had been dropped for admitting publicly that Saddam Hussein had been strengthened by the fratricide among Iraqi Kurds last year. From the moment his name was floated, the Senate intelligence committee made it quite clear that he would be subject to intense scrutiny.

The same Republican Senate that has been accused of vindictiveness accepted virtually all Mr Clinton's other major appointments without dispute. The role of CIA Director has always been treated with exceptional sensitivity. Until the early 1970s Congress had minimal influence over intelligence activities. Since then, Capitol Hill has demanded independent figures whom it trusted. In 1977, a Democratic Senate informed President Carter that his choice, Theodore Sorenson, would not do. In 1991, President Bush's preference, Robert Gates, barely survived a Senate vote. Mr Lake was at least as contentious this time.

His fate was sealed when he became embroiled in the assorted fundraising scandals that have haunted Mr Clinton since his re-election. The FBI had informed National Security Council staff last June that associates of the Chinese Government were attempting to steer money towards the Democratic Party - a move that was both obviously undesirable and patently illegal. This information apparently never reached Mr Lake nor was it sent to the White House.

On Monday it emerged that Mr Lake had also not been informed that his office had failed to prevent Roger Tamraz, an oil financier, from meeting Mr Clinton. That liaison had been promoted by the chairman of the Democratic National Committee who believed he could solicit a large donation if the President would co-operate. The fact that their proposed sponsor has been wanted in Lebanon on embezzlement charges for a decade seemingly bothered neither party nor President.

The current charged environment in Washington certainly contributed to Mr Lake's downfall but did not exclusively create it. Politics in the American capital has largely ground to a halt while Republicans seek to extract further documentation on how the Clinton-Gore campaign was financed. Those efforts will continue until the Justice Department selects an independent counsel to investigate the affair. It is now as much in Mr Clinton's interests as his opponents that such an appointment be made. In either case Mr Lake is unlikely to be the last casualty of the China connection.

CULTURAL CAMPAIGNS

The British arts festival season is democracy in action

Do not despair. For the next six weeks there is life other than the general election. May 1 is polling day. But it is also the first day of the Glasgow Mayfest, which will continue all month to celebrate all the arts throughout the city. And in it there will be world premieres, famous companies from abroad, drama and controversy, probably about Sir Peter Maxwell Davies's opera *Resurrection*.

And Glasgow is just one of the season of British arts festivals that will run from now until October. Today our Arts Pages publish a selection of 50 of the brightest and best of them. From Easter onwards not a day will pass without festivals in some remote corner, country town or crowded inner city of the land. They range from the blockbusters, such as Edinburgh and Cheltenham, Bath and Brighton, to the specialist, such as Aldeburgh for contemporary music, and York for the early kind. Notting Hill's Carnival has become as famous as those of Rio or New Orleans. There is rock and pop in all their varieties at Glastonbury, Phoenix and Reading, theatre at Chichester, Shakespeare at Arundel, opera at Glyndebourne and the Eisteddfod at Llangollen.

Some festivals are very old. This summer brings the 103rd season of the BBC's Promenade Concerts and the 50th of the Edinburgh Festival. The Hereford Three Choirs is Europe's oldest choral festival. Some festivals are new. This is the second year of the Docklands Festival, and the first of the Daphne Du Maurier Festival in Cornwall. Depending on how the count is taken, there are now about 500 festivals during the British season. This poll does not include the thousands of Muggletonian pageants and pig-roastings that last for only a weekend. The number grows every year. Often the standard is extremely high, ambitious and eclectic, bringing top-quality culture in all its international forms to those who live remote from the big cities.

The connection between politics and the arts is closer than is often recognised. Festivals make opportunity, choice and ownership of lasting goods available to all. They can turn the cultural have-nots into cultural haves. It is no accident that the first democracy was founded by the society that invented festivals. Those great celebrations of the first tragedy and comedy were a cement of civil society and a chance to display the genius, as well as the might and wealth, of Athens to the world. The British theatre grew out of the medieval mystery plays. These will be played again at festivals this year, as they have been for more than seven centuries.

Life without the arts makes a barren and uncivil society. The great drama of the general election will occupy centre stage in Britain for the next six weeks. But at the same time the festivals of Britain will show that there is life after politics, connected and commenting on it.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Counter-claims on tax and spending

From the Shadow Chief Secretary to the Treasury

Sir, William Waldegrave deceives himself ("Labour's liaison with Leviathan", March 13). He says that Conservatives distrust Leviathan. This from a Government which has centralised power on an unparalleled level and which spends exactly the same share of national income now as it inherited in 1978-79.

He misleads himself elsewhere as well. The UK growth rate over the last 18 years is less than that achieved by the last Labour Government and is less than the European Union average.

His claims that public sector borrowing is under control don't stand up. By the end of the current financial year the Government will have had to borrow £66 billion more than they promised in 1992. The national debt has doubled since John Major became Prime Minister.

And his claims about our pledged spending commitments don't bear examination either. Indeed, these claims, frequently repeated, are widely discredited. Mr Waldegrave's problem is that, increasingly, no one believes a word this Government says. They sought the trust of the British people in 1992. They have now lost that trust completely.

Yours sincerely,
ALISTAIR DARLING,
Shadow Chief Secretary
to the Treasury,
House of Commons.
March 14.

From Mr Paul Ashton

Sir, Lord Healey (letter, March 15) may well be right in claiming that the average family is paying more in taxes as a proportion of income today than in 1978-79 when he was Chancellor; but the tone of his letter suggests that a Labour government would have done better. We may still need some convincing of this.

For example, his party has consistently voted against income tax rate cuts. If the 1978-79 tax rates were still in force now, along with indexed thresholds, the proportion of average earnings taken in tax and national insurance contributions would, I calculate, be almost five percentage points higher today (30.6 per cent against 25.9 per cent).

Further, for Labour to have done better than the present Government on spending as a proportion of GDP, it would have to be spending less than the Government is now doing. I would hazard to guess that not many of us think that likely.

Labour has come a long way in moderating its tax-and-spend policies, but it is a bit much to ask us to believe that taxes and spending would be as low or lower now had Lord Healey's party been in power since 1979.

Yours faithfully,
PAUL ASHTON,
37 Benbow Avenue, Langney Point,
Eastbourne, East Sussex.
March 15.

From Sir David Mitchell, MP for Hampshire North West (Conservative)

Sir, Before the last general election John Major made it abundantly clear that he had no intention of increasing taxes. The Opposition attacks him for 22 increases (you can just get to that figure but it takes a bit of mental agility). However, in doing so Labour raises the central question of what it would have done had it been in government in the circumstances in which John Major's Chancellor found himself.

The recession continued longer and deeper than expected. Spending on unemployment and associated benefits rose, government receipts from VAT and corporation tax fell. The Government had either to increase tax or print the money to cover the shortfall.

Is Labour's hidden message that it would have, and would in future, print and return to soaring inflation, as it did before?

Yours faithfully,
DAVID MITCHELL,
House of Commons.
March 17.

Local taxation

From Councillor Sir Jeremy Beecham

Sir, Sir Ronald Watson (letter, March 7) appears to criticise my view that it is necessary for there to be a shift in the proportion of local authority income from the amount raised centrally to that raised locally.

Yet local accountability is impossible without a more explicit connection between local expenditure and local taxation. Sir Ron himself has in the past recognised this in his calls for capping to be ended in order, as he has put it, that local councils should not be allowed to claim either that they are spending at a level permitted by central government or that their inability to provide adequate local services is inhibited by central government.

He also omits to mention that the present Government's own plans foreshadow a decrease in the proportion of central funding.

Yours faithfully,
JEREMY BEECHAM
(Chairman), Association of
Metropolitan Authorities,
35 Great Smith Street, SW1.
March 11.

Dorrell's plans for long-term residential care for elderly

From the Executive Director of ARPO50

Sir, Stephen Dorrell presents his scheme for long-term residential care of the elderly as a major policy decision affecting everyone (report, March 13). In fact, it will do no more than assist a tiny proportion of those who must sell their homes in order to pay for such care. Even they will achieve this only at very considerable cost and with no guarantee that, in the end, the funds will be allocated as they desire.

In June 1996 the National Association of Pension Funds, giving evidence to the Commons Health Committee stated that a couple aged 65 would have to pay £315 per month to cover an average-size house. Although figures now being quoted may be slightly lower than this, such estimates are entirely beyond the reach of most people. Indeed PPP Lifetime has stated that its policyholders typically have assets of more than £250,000.

What is of equal concern is the manner in which funds are eventually made available. It must be proved that the person can no longer perform certain "activities for daily living", with criteria being arbitrarily fixed by the insurance company. In many cases payments will then be made direct to the care provider.

It is difficult to avoid the feeling that policy of this kind is mere tokenism, diverting attention from the real problem, which is the growing neglect of the 95 per cent of dependent people who are cared for in their own homes and for whom essential services are rapidly disappearing.

Yours faithfully,
DONALD W. STEELE,
Executive Director,
ARPO50 (Association of
Retired and Persons Over 50),
Greencoat House,
Francis Street, SW1.
March 13.

From the Community Care Manager of the Independent Healthcare Association

Sir, Despite the comment by Chris Smith, Shadow Health Secretary — "the triumph of dogma over common sense" — the IHCA believes that there is much in Mr Dorrell's White Paper which can be supported by all political parties. Indeed, a spokesman for the Labour Party has already spoken in favour of some of the proposed regulatory changes.

Ending the legal distinction between residential care and nursing homes will enable providers to give a more flexible service in line with changing client needs; and national benchmarks for care standards will help stop the inconsistent approaches taken by regulating authorities.

Social services will remain major purchasers for the immediate future and, as such, will still be hugely influential in deciding how the market for care will develop. I can see no well-founded argument for them continuing to provide and regulate it as well.

Yours faithfully,
A. MACKAY,
Community Care Manager,
Independent Healthcare Association,
22 Little Russell Street, WC1.
March 14.

From the Chief Executive of Scope

Sir, Mr Dorrell's White Paper presents a dramatic shift in policy, placing responsibility for care needs onto the individual disabled person and their family. If the Government contracts out of care provision, not only of residential services but also the vast amount of care services provided to people in their own homes, disabled people could be left without choice and without a safety net.

Yet again we see the rights and needs of disabled people sidelined in favour of penny-pinching policies.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD BREWSTER,
Chief Executive,
Scope (formerly The Spastics Society),
12 Park Crescent, W1.

From Mr Robert Waterhouse

Sir, A simple way to deal with the problem of the cost of residential care for the elderly would surely be through death duties. Alteration to the current exemption system, so that the estates of all persons dying over retirement age (irrespective of whether they had themselves benefited from residential care) were subject to a modest and clearly defined deduction, for example as a percentage.

Such a system, I suggest, would be simple to administer and fair to everyone: it would be vastly superior to the Government's proposals involving insurance companies, the main beneficiary of which would, I suspect, be those companies and not the citizens of this country.

Yours sincerely,
ROBERT WATERHOUSE,
5 Heatherbank, Chislehurst, Kent.
March 12.

From Ms Tessa Harding

Sir, Professor Alan Williams of the Centre for Health Economics at the University of York suggests that discriminating against the elderly is an "appropriate" way of rationing scarce health resources (report, March 14). Is he seriously saying that this country is so poor that it cannot afford healthcare for its older people?

If we spend a lower proportion of our GDP (under 7 per cent) on health than nearly all OECD countries, it is because we choose to, not out of economic necessity.

Certainly we could and should be doing more to help older people retain their independence. We could be making sure people's homes are warm and well insulated; that public transport is convenient and accessible; that corner shops and village post offices stay open; that there is enough good primary and other domiciliary care available when people need it. To take these "unglamorous measures" would make both human and economic sense and help people remain independent, as they wish. But we are not doing that either at present.

It is not a question of choosing between those sensible measures and high-quality healthcare; we need both. Once we start making judgments about the value of people's lives on the basis that they belong to a particular group or class in society, we are on a very slippery slope. Discrimination on grounds of age is no more acceptable than discrimination on grounds of race, gender or class.

Yours etc,
TESSA HARDING
(Head of Planning and Development),
Help the Aged,
St James's Walk,
Clerkenwell Green, EC1.
March 17.

France and Africa

From the Ambassador of France

Sir, I was very surprised to read in your editorial of March 12, "Back to Fashoda", some particularly harsh comments on French policy vis-à-vis central Africa.

France is no way suffering from "Fashoda syndrome" and, in our view, the rivalry which you allege exists between French and British interests in Africa belongs completely to the past. Just like our major partners, we are directing our efforts on the African continent towards promoting the rule of law, good governance and sustainable development.

As regard the crisis in Zaire's South Kivu province, France is working in close co-operation with the United States and the United Kingdom and shares with them the desire to see the rapid and full implementation of Security Council Resolution 1097, unanimously adopted on February 18.

It is against this background and because the situation of the hundreds of thousands of Kivu refugees has become tragic that on March 10 the President of the Republic issued a solemn appeal to the international community immediately to stop the fighting and provide the humanitarian aid which is most urgently needed.

Our policy is also directed towards guaranteeing Zaire's sovereignty and territorial integrity, ending foreign interference and promoting dialogue in the run-up to Zairean elections and the organisation of an international conference bringing together the countries of the Great Lakes region in order to achieve a lasting solution to the current crisis. I note that the peace plan of the United Nations Secretary-General's special representative and the OAU has endorsed these objectives.

Finally, I am especially shocked to read the allegation that France "armed and backed the Hutu killers in Rwanda". Right from the onset of the Rwandan crisis, we have been striving, harder than any other country, to promote a political solution and mobilise the international community in order to prevent ethnic clashes. Indeed, France stopped sending any military hardware to Rwanda on April 8, 1994 — ie, before the United Nations imposed an embargo on arms supplies to that country on May 17, 1994. Furthermore, France was the first to use the term "genocide" to describe the events which took place in Rwanda after April 6, 1994, and actively supported the establishment of the International Criminal Tribunal to try those responsible for those crimes.

France's action in the whole of Africa is not in any way prompted by revanchism, but by the firm belief that only by acting as one can the international community effectively help Africa cope with the immense challenges confronting it.

Yours faithfully,
JEAN GUEGUINOU,
Embassy of France,
58 Knightsbridge, SW1.
March 13.

Cloning limitations

From Dr Christopher Gardner-Thorpe

Sir, Mr Alan Challoner (letter, March 13) notes that the influence of the environment "creates individuality that cannot be reproduced by cloning" — but is there evidence of this?

Why do cells which replicate during later life fail to resemble youthful cells? Skin is a good example. We do not seem to produce childlike characteristics in each new tissue repair. Presumably some memory process is ongoing and this may include memory of environmental factors. Thus a clone may include characteristics and memory acquired during the lifetime of the donor.

Could cloning from long-dead human tissue lead, perhaps after refinement of the technique in the years to come, to individuals who could tell us about decades gone by? The idea may seem horrifying but it is intriguing and not capable of disproof.

Yours sincerely,
CHRISTOPHER GARDNER-THORPE
(Consultant neurologist),
The Coach House,
1a College Road, Exeter, Devon.
March 14.

From Mr Charles Dodd

Sir, Mr Nathan Griggs's prediction of an "Equal rights for clones!" campaign (letter, March 15) need not concern us yet awhile. What we need to watch out for now is the promotional message: "You're never alone with a clone."

Yours faithfully,
CHARLES DODD,
Solway, 55 West Street,
Corfe Castle, Dorset.
March 15.

From Mrs M. M. Robinson

Sir, Miss Barbara Wanford (letter, March 15) need have no worries about who would programme the video in a world full of female clones. Most adolescent females, if told that they have to be out of the house when the Spice Girls are due to appear on television, will learn to programme any video in a matter of minutes.

They will also probably work out how to retune the machine to avoid Channel 5 interference if necessary.

Yours faithfully,
J. A. ROBINSON,
Cobdown,
Copt Hall Road, Ightham, Kent.
March 15.

From Mr Frank Rich

Sir, Miss Wanford wonders if we could dispense with the entire male population.

The task of programming the video would, of course, be performed entirely by grandchildren. Within a fortnight, however, the world would be ruled by spiders living in bathrooms.

Yours faithfully,
FRANK RICH,
9 Garden Close,
Hampton, Middlesex.
March 16.

Politics of hope

From Mr Nicolas Walter

Sir, If the atrocities of the French Revolution were committed "in the name" of liberty, equality and fraternity and the atrocities of the Russian Revolution were committed "under the same banner", as is boldly but wrongly suggested by Mr Bernard Kaukas (letter, March 10), in what name and under what banner have the atrocities of the "Judaeo-Christian tradition" been committed?

The Old Testament is full of horrors in this life and the New Testament threatens more in the next, and for 3,000 years there have been religious wars and persecutions, stonings and burnings, crusades and inquisitions, witch-hunts and pogroms, slavery and segregation.

If God, Jesus and the Bible are not demeaned by the fact that they have been taken in vain by some of their followers, why should liberty, equality and fraternity be demeaned by the fact that they have, too?

Yours etc,
NICOLAS WALTER,
Rationalist Press Association,
88 Islington High Street, N1.
March 10.

Letters that are intended for publication should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046.

Collectors as 'looters'

From Mr Christopher Cavey, FSA

Sir, I find it astounding that Lord Renfrew of Kaimsthorn, a trustee of the British Museum, should condemn collectors of antiquities as "financing the cycle of destruction" of archaeological sites (report, March 13).

The British Museum's collections, in common with nearly all major museum collections in the world, owe their existence to collectors and for centuries have relied on them and on dealers for their enhancement. Attitudes such as Lord Renfrew's could well discourage them from giving museums their hard-won accumulations — a terrible loss to the nation, science and history.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER CAVEY,
178 Hicks Avenue,
Greenford, Middlesex.
March 13.

Bit of a mix-up

From Mrs Pamela Morgan

Sir, On hearing someone being interviewed on the Radio 4 *Woman's Hour* programme today who said, "I am a Jewish atheist, thank God", I felt rather confused.

Yours faithfully,
PAMELA MORGAN,
9 Winterstoke Gardens,
Mill Hill, NW7.
March 12.

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 18: The Queen held an Investiture at Buckingham Palace *this morning*.

The Duke of Edinburgh, President Emeritus, World Wide Fund for Nature - WWF International, this *morning left Khabarovsk* and flew to Petropavlovsk in Kamchatka, Eastern Russia.

This afternoon His Royal Highness visited the areas of Verkhne Paratunskie and Moroznya Mountain.

The Duke of Edinburgh later visited the Department of Nature Conservation and gave a Press Conference.

His Royal Highness this evening attended a Dinner with local officials and staff from World Wide Fund for Nature - Russia.

The following morning The Duke of Edinburgh, President Emeritus, *World Wide Fund for Nature* - WWF International, left Petropavlovsk, Eastern Russia, to fly to Alaska and, having crossed the International Date Line, this evening arrived in Anchorage and gave a Press Conference for World Wide Fund for Nature.

The Lady Elton has succeeded the *Lady Susan Hussey* as *Lady in* Waiting to The Queen.

March 18: The Duke of York this evening attended a Dinner given by *the Yorkshire Universities Air Squad*ron at Royal Air Force Linton-on-Ouse, and was received by Major-General Henry Woods (Vice Lord-Lieutenant of North Yorkshire).

March 18: The Princess Royal, President, Save the Children Fund, this morning attended "Talk Back" at the Hopscotch Asian Women's Centre, *Phoenix Road, London NW1*.

CLARENCE HOUSE
March 18: The Hon Mrs Rhodes has succeeded the Lady Angela Oswald as Lady-in-Waiting to Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
March 18: The Prince of Wales this evening gave a Reception for the Norfolk Constabulary at Sandringham House and presented long service and good conduct medals to members of the Constabulary.

His Royal Highness was represented by Sir John Riddell, Bt, at the Memorial Service for Sir Laurens van der Post which was held in the Chapel, Royal Hospital Chelsea, London SW3, this morning.

KENSINGTON PALACE
March 18: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, this afternoon visited West Yorkshire and was received by Mr David Fearnley (Vice Lord-Lieutenant of West Yorkshire).

Her Royal Highness, President, the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, visited Wm. Morrisons Supermarket, *Idle*, Bradford, and accepted a cheque representing funds raised for the Society by the Company's employees.

The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon subsequently visited the Brontë Parsonage Museum, Haworth.

March 18: The Duchess of Gloucester, Patron, Plan International, this evening attended an Exhibition to mark Plan International's 60th Anniversary at Café Royal, Regent *Street, London W1*.

YORK HOUSE
March 18: The Duchess of Kent, Patron, this *morning* visited the Yehudi Menuhin School, Stoke d'Abernon, Cobham, Surrey.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE
March 18: Princess Alexandra, Vice-President of the British Red Cross, accompanied by the *Rt Hon Sir* Angus Ogilvy, left Gatwick Airport, London this afternoon to undertake engagements in Bermuda.

Royal engagements

The Queen will visit the Blue Cross Animal Hospital, Hugh Street, London, SW1, at 3.00; and will dine at the Connaught Hotel, at 8.15 to mark the hotel's centenary.

Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother will attend the annual meeting of Queen Mary's Clothing Guild at St *James's Palace at* 2.55.

The Princess Royal, as Patron, The Butler Trust, will present the annual awards at the Victoria and Albert Museum at 11.45; as President, The Princess Royal Trust for Carers, will attend a Trustees Meeting, 81 Newgate Street, London EC1, at 2.25; and as Commandant-in-Chief, St John's Ambulance and Nursing Cadets, will attend a reception for the Cadets at Buckingham Palace at 6.30.

The Duchess of Gloucester, as Patron of SeeABILITY, will visit the headquarters at Highlands Road, Leatherhead, at 2.00; and, as Patron will visit St John's School, Epsom Road, at 3.15.

The Duke of Kent will present the Montblanc award for patronage of the arts at the National Portrait Gallery at 7.30.

Reception

The Bhavan Centre
Mrs Margaret Beckett, MP, yesterday unveiled the portrait of Dr L.M. Singhvi, the High Commissioner for *India, commissioned by Sir* Sigmund Sternberg at The Bhavan Centre, 4a Castletown Road, London W14.

Service dinners

Fleet Air Arm
Captain Alan Hensher, RN, presided at a dinner of the Fleet Air Arm Officers' Association held last night at *the Naval Club. The principal guests* were Admiral of the Fleet Sir Benjamin Bathurst, Admiral Sir Raymond Lygo, Sir Michael Cobham, Professor Lawrence Freedman, FBA, Mr Brian Hanrahan and Mr Allan Winn.

RAF Strike Command
Air Chief Marshal Sir William Wratten, Air Officer Commanding-*in-Chief Strike* Command, was the speaker at a dining in night held yesterday at RAF High Wycombe to *mark* the retirement of Air Chief *Marshal Sir Michael Graydon*, Chief of Air Staff. Group Captain G.S. Harker presided. Lady Graydon, members of the Air Force Board, serving and retired air officers, officers and friends were present.

Yorkshire Universities Air Squadron
The Duke of York was the guest of honour at the annual dinner of Yorkshire Universities Air Squadron held last night at RAF Linton-on-Ouse. Squadron Leader N.W. Willey presided. Major-General H.G. Woods, Vice Lord-Lieutenant of North Yorkshire, and Air Vice-Marshal J.H. Thompson, Air Officer Commanding and Commandant, RAF College Cranwell, were present.

Appointment

Mr John Vessey Machin to be a Circuit Judge assigned to the Midland and Oxford Circuit.

RHS early spring flower show

Connoisseurs' choice gets the gold

By Alan Toogood
HORTICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

CORYDALIS, once considered to be connoisseurs' plants, are in fashion and many are easily grown by most gardeners. A collection of these dwarf hardy perennials for rock and woodland garden, mainly tuberous kinds, forms the highlight of the Royal Horticultural Society's early spring flower show.

Masterminded by Kath Dryden, of Sawbridgeworth, Hertfordshire and staged by the Alpine Garden Society, the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, and the RHS Garden, Wisley, Surrey, this gold-medal exhibit consists of Western woodland species from Europe, *western* Russia and the Caucasus Mountains, such as the lilac-coloured *Corydalis solida* and its variously coloured cultivars, and Eastern woodlanders from Siberia and Eastern Asia, typified by the blue *C. fumariifolia azurea* and *C. flexuosa* and cultivars.

The bulb-belt species from the Mediterranean and similar regions with hot *dry summers* are well represented and include *C. glaucescens* with pale pink flowers and glaucous foliage.

Camellias form another major ingredient of this show, which opened in Westminster yesterday. Burncoose Nurseries, of Redruth, Cornwall, scooped a gold medal with a large collection which includes many of the desirable *williamsii* cultivars such as "Monica Dance" with fashionable mottled, semi-double pink *flowers. Giant-flowered magnolias* such as *M. sprengeri* "Burncoose" form a dramatic background to this display.

Cricket bats and woven baskets are some of the products made from willow shown by Southcombe Gardens, of Kenton, Devon. This unusual gold-*medal exhibit* also shows the willows used for these and other products. Willows for the garden include many with *attractive flowers such as Salix daphnoides* "Oxford Violet", and unusual twisted and wavy stems, of which *S.* "Caradoc" and *S. alba* "Dart's Snake" are particularly distinctive. Woven willow sculptures by Serena de la Hay, of Taunton, Somerset, show a modern use.

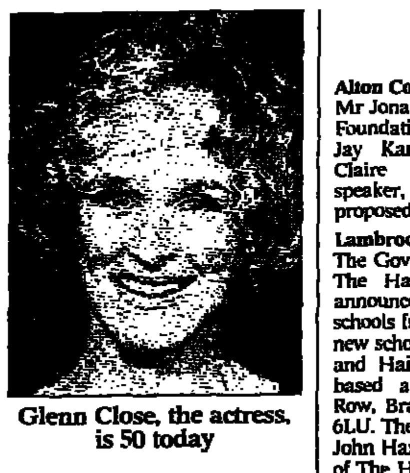
All four *RHS* competitions are well supported and it is encouraging to see a vast improvement over last year in the early rhododendron competition, in which the City and Council of Swansea won the class for three species with *Rhododendron sutchuenense* (blush), *R. beanianum* (crimson) and *R. uvariifolium griseum* (white).

In the early camellia competition the Duke of Devonshire, of Chatsworth House, Derbyshire, has won many classes including that for six cultivars of *Camellia japonica*. He is showing "Elegans" (pink), "Easter Morn" (blush), "Wildfire" (red), "R L Wheeler" (pink), "Betty Sheffield Blush Supreme" (marbled pink), and "Ann Southern" (clear pink).

Nigel Holman, of Chyverton, Truro, Cornwall, has entered some magnificent magnolias in the ornamental plants competition. His bloom of *Magnolia* "Elizabeth Holman" with large deep pink flowers has won first prize.

In the early daffodil competition, Mr A.J.R. Pearson, of Maldon, Essex, has won the class for six cultivars. His bloom of "Altun Ha", pale yellow with a cream cup, has been judged best bloom in the competition. His other blooms are "Fine Romance" (pink cup), "Lighthouse Reef" (yellow trumpet), "Sugar *and* Spice" (white, small cup), "Holme Fen" (white, yellow trumpet) and "Hot Gossip" (deep yellow, orange cup).

The show, in the New Horticultural Hall, Greycoat Street, Westminster, is open today from 10am to 5pm.



Glenn Close, the actress, is 50 today

Birthdays today

Mr D.R.Y. Bluck, former chairman, British Tourist Authority, 70; Sir Nigel Broomfield, diplomat, 60; Mr Michael Chapman, racehorse trainer, 59; Lady Georgina Coleridge, 81; Mr Peter Cotes, theatre director and producer, 85; Dr J.D. Davies, former director, Polytechnic of Wales, 68; Professor Ronald Girdwood, former President, Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh, 80; the Right Rev Ronald Gordon, former *Bishop of Portsmouth, 70; Sir* Ernest Hall, pianist, composer and property developer, 67; Viscount Hill, 66; Vice-Admiral Sir Norman King, 64; *Sir David Lumsden, former* Principal, Royal Academy of Music, 69; Mr Patrick McGoohan, actor, 69; Mr Paul Marland, MP, 57; Sir Peter Masefield, aviation expert, 83; Mr Philip Mason, writer, 91; the Earl of Morton, 70; Mr David Nicholson, racehorse trainer, 58; Lord Plant of Highfield, 52; Lieutenant-General Sir Alan Reay, 72; Mr Philip Roth, author, 64; Sir Leonard Scopes, diplomat, 85; Mr Percival G. Sutton, former chairman, the Press Club, 81; *Mr Duncan Weldon*, theatre producer, 56; Mr Bruce Willis, actor, 42; Mr William Winfield, Headmaster, Mill Hill School, 50.

School news

Alton College
Mr Jonathon Porritt delivered the Foundation Lecture on March 14. Jay Kaminski was Chairman, Claire Weir introduced the speaker, and Sarah Ward Close proposed the Vote of Thanks.

Lambrook and Haileybury
The Governors of Lambrook and The Haileybury Junior School announce the merger of the two schools from September 1997. The new school, known as "Lambrook and Haileybury School" will be based at Lambrook, Winkfield Row, Bracknell, Berkshire, RG42 6LU. The Headmaster will be Mr John Hare, currently Headmaster of The Haileybury Junior School. The Headmaster of Lambrook, Mr Robin Badham-Thornhill, has been appointed as Head of Sum*mer Fields, Oxford*.

St Mary's School Ascot
St Mary's School Ascot would like *to announce that the following girls have been successful in* gaining scholarships for 1997:
11+ General scholarship: Venetia Goodhart from The Old Vicarage School, Richmond.
13+ General scholarship: Catriona Blackwell *from* Sibton Park School, Folkestone.
Music scholarship: Cordelia De Freitas from Holy Cross Preparatory School, Kingston upon Thames.
VI form science scholarship: Elizabeth Westmacott from St Mary's School Ascot.
St Mary's School Ascot exists to provide a quality RC boarding education *for girls 11-18*.

Stowe School
Stowe School announces the following awards for 1997:
Major Academic Scholarship: Alexander Tate, Brambletye, East Grinstead.
Minor Academic Scholarship: Christopher Lyon, St Aubyns, Rottingdean.
Academic Exhibition: Harry Beamish, Moor Park, Ludlow; Matthew Johnson, Aldro, Godalming; Thomas Reeves, Winchester House, Brackley.
Science Award: Benjamin Lange, *Beechwood Park, St Albans*.
Science/Modern Language Exhibition: Benjamin Morgan, Sunningdale, Berkshire.
Major Music Scholarship: Oliver Cullingworth, Cathedral Choir, Ripon; Matthew Johnson, Aldro, Godalming; Matthew MacLeod, Edge Grove, Watford; Robert McKinnon, Hall Grove, Bagshot.
Music Scholarship: Peter Rossiter, Sunningdale, Berkshire; Thomas Sowerby, Lockers Park, Hemel Hempstead.
Top Art Scholarship: Louis *Buckworth, Papplewick, Ascot.*
Second Art Scholarship: Anthony Offley, West Hill Park, Fareham.
Major Sixth Form Scholarship: Laura McMaster, James Allen's, London; Sally Oliphant, Wycombe High, Buckinghamshire.
Stephan Sixth Form Scholarship: Emma Box, Royal Latin, Buckingham; Sarah Dalby, Thornton, Buckingham.
Stephan Sixth Form Exhibition: Navaz Chichger, Thornton, Buckingham.
Sixth Form Language Exhibition: Briony Lamping, Roedean, Brighton.
Sixth Form Art Exhibition: Louisa Jones, Convent of Sacred Heart, Swaffham; Frances Morley-Fletcher, St Mary's, Calne.
Sixth Form Roxburgh Award: Daniel Channing-Williams, Park House, Newbury; Lucy Keenan, Thornton, Buckingham; Mugabe Kaljuka, St Andrew's, Turi; Georgina Lee, Thornton, Buckingham.
13+ Roxburgh Award: Malcolm Riley, Swanbourne House, Milton Keynes; Gareth Sharp, Spratton Hall, Northampton.
13+ Roxburgh Exhibition: Sam Taylor, Abberley Hall, Worcester; Luke Worrall, Abberley Hall, Worcester.
Continuation Exhibition: Tom Ellerton, Swanbourne House, Milton Keynes; Harry Kemble, Beachborough, Brackley.
Stowe School is a registered charity which exists for education.

Service

St Margaret's Church, Westminster Abbey
The Speaker and Sir Edward Heath, KG, Father of the House, read the lessons at a service of thanksgiving for members leaving the House of Commons at the end of this parliament held yesterday at St Margaret's Church, Westminster Abbey. Canon Donald Gray, Chaplain to the Speaker, officiated and gave an address. The Rev Jonathan Goodall, Chaplain and Sacrist of Westminster Abbey, was robed and in the Sanctuary.

Dinners

Coningsby Club
The Hon William Waldegrave, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, was the guest of honour and speaker at a *dinner of the Coningsby Club held* last night at the Carlton Club. The officers and committee of the Coningsby Club were the hosts and Mr Anthony Parsons, chairman, presided.

Coachmakers and Coach Harness Makers
Mr James Smillie, Master of the Coachmakers' and Coach Harness Makers' Company, presided at the annual motor industry dinner held last night at Merchant Taylors' Hall. *Mr Roger Smith and Mr* Nicholas Scheele, Chairman and Chief Executive of Jaguar Cars, also spoke.

Queen Mary and Westfield College
Sir Christopher France, Chairman of the Council of Queen Mary and Westfield College, London Univer*sity, presided at a dinner held last* night at the college.

At an earlier ceremony, he had admitted as Honorary Fellows of *the college the Hon Peter Brooke*, CH, MP, Mr Martin R. Harris, Dame Anne Mueller and Professor Sir John Vane, FRS. Ms Janet *Suzman delivered the Drapers'* lecture.

Professor Graham Zellick, principal of the college, conferred honorary degrees of *London* University, to Sir Gordon Higginson, Lord Steyn and Ms Suzman.

National Liberal Club
Sir Bernard Ingham was the guest of honour at a dinner of the National Liberal Club's political and economic *circle held last night at the club. Lord McNally presided.*

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: David Livingstone, explorer, Low Blantyre, Lanarkshire, 1813; Sergei Diaghilev, impresario, Novgorod, Russia, 1872.

DEATHS: Arthur James Balfour, 1st Earl of Balfour, Prime Minister 1902-5, Woking, Surrey, 1930.

Memorial service

Sir Laurens van der Post
The Prince of *Wales was* represented by Sir John Riddell at a service of thanksgiving for the life of Sir Laurens van der Post, writer, explorer and conservationist, *held* yesterday in the Chapel of the Royal Hospital, Chelsea. The *President* of South Africa was represented by Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, Minister of Home Affairs, South Africa, and Leader of the *Inkata Freedom* Party, also representing the Government of National Unity and the People of South Africa, who gave an address. The Rev Tom Hiney officiated.

Baroness Thatcher, LG, OM, FRS, and Mrs Lucia Crichton-Miller, daughter, read the lessons. Mr Thomas Bedford, nephew, read two Afrikaans poems and Dr *Ian McCallum, of the* South African Association of Jungian Analysts, also read a poem. Mr Ian Player gave an address. Miss Rebecca van der Post, granddaughter, violin, and Mr Thomas Adès, piano, played *Quatuor pour la fin du temps (No 8 Louange à l'Immortalité de Jésus)* by Olivier Messiaen.

The High Commissioner for South Africa was represented by the Deputy High Commissioner.

Among others present were:
Mr Neil Crichton-Miller (son-in-law), Miss Emma Crichton-Miller, Mr and Mrs David Crichton-Miller and Mr and Mrs Rupert van der Post (grandchildren), Mrs Tom Bedford and other members of the family.

The Duke and Duchess of Richmond and Gordon, Lady Plunket, Lady Susan Hussey, Lady Clare Lindsay, Sir Denis Thatcher, *Sir* Humphry Wakefield, Lady Arbuthnot, Sir John Leahy, Mr Charles Janson and the Countess of Sutherland, Lady Penn, Mr John Aspinall, Mr William Atkinson, Mr David Anderson, Mr Gordon Beningfield, Mr *Richard* Bernays and Miss Rosamund Horwood-Smart, QC.

Mr Peter Bevan, Mr and Mrs Paul Bellinger, Mr Christopher Booker, Miss Victoria Blashford-Snell, Mr *Malcolm Brown, Mr John Charlton*, Mr and Mrs S Crampton, Miss Juanita Carbery, Ms Jessica Douglas-Home, Mr and Mrs J Denholm, Mr Ernest du Plessis, Mr and Mrs John Denman, Mrs T S Eliot, Mr Tom Eccles, Mr Alexander Fyjis-Walker, Mr *Timothy* Ffytche.

Mr and Mrs W Griffiths, Mrs Valerie Hemingway, Dr Kurt Hoffman, Mr W Hazell, Mr Loftus Peyton-Jones, Miss J Jackson, Mr Nicholas Luard, Mr *Ronald Lello, the Rev A Mottram, Mr* John Murray, Mr Charles Njonjo, Mr Richard Ogden, Mr Neil Petersen, Dr Kathleen Raine, Mr David Rattray, Mr Johnny Roberts.

Mr David Rattray, Mr and Mrs J Rose, *Mrs Caroline Ryder, Mr and Mrs* John Stanley, Mr Jonathan Stedall, Captain and Mrs Robin Sheepshanks, Mr John Smoker, Mr Peter Talbot Willcox, Ms Molly Tuby, Mr Chris Thomas, Miss E A Villiers, Mr and Mrs Oliver Waldron, *Mr Eric Warburg, Mr* J Young.

Professor Richard Hodges (representing the Prince of Wales's Institute of Architecture), representatives of the *Readers Digest*, Spectrum and many other friends.

Air Marshal Sir Denis Crowley-Milling

A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Air Marshal Sir Denis Crowley-*Milling, KCB, CBE, DSO, DFC*, will* be held in St Clement Danes, Strand, London, on Friday, April 18, 1997, at 11.30am. Dress for the occasion will be: Serving Officers: Full Ceremonial Day Dress; Civilians: Morning Dress or Lounge Suit. Those intending to be present are asked to notify the Ministry of Defence, PId (Ceremonial) (RAF) on 0171 218 2524/or 2628.

Reception

Royal College of Defence Studies
Earl Howe was the senior host at a reception given last night at Lan*caster House by the UK* members of the Royal College of Defence Studies for the overseas members of the college and their wives.

Forthcoming marriages

The Hon Edward Noel and Miss S.K. Yeats-Brown
The engagement is announced between Edward, youngest son of the Earl and Countess of *Gainsborough*, and Sarah, younger daughter of the late Mr David Yeats-Brown and of Mrs Ann Yeats-Brown, of Wangford, Suffolk.

Mr P.D. Charles and Miss C.A. Levy
The engagement is announced between Paul David, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Henry Charles, of Nottingham, and Catherine Alexandra, daughter of Mr and *Mrs Brian Levy, of London.*

Mr S.M. Collingwood and Miss L.H. Kendall
The engagement is announced between Stuart, only son of Mr and Mrs Reginald Collingwood, of Hampton, Middlesex, and Lisa, *only* daughter of Mr and Mrs Kopel Kendall, of West Hampstead, London.

Mr A.L. Dawes and Mrs V.A. Pulbrook
The engagement is announced between Alan, son of the late Mr George Dawes and of Mrs Jill Dawes, of Orlestone, Kent, and Ginny, only daughter of the late Dr P.E. Bodkin and of Mrs Audrey Bodkin, of Longstock, Hampshire.

Mr P. Fleming and Miss J.M.A. Carter
The engagement is announced between Philip, elder son of Mr and Mrs Robin Fleming, of Steeple Barton, Oxfordshire, and Jane, daughter of Mr and Mrs Richard Carter, of Great Baddow, Essex.

Mr R.W. Nagel and Miss E.R. Lycett Green
The engagement is announced between Robert, son of Mr Sidney Nagel, of Highgate, London and the late Mrs Margaret Nagel, and Endellion, daughter of Mr and Mrs Rupert Lycett Green, of Uffington, Berkshire.

Mr D.G. Pilfold and Miss A.D. Walker
The engagement is announced between David, son of Mr and Mrs Paul Pilfold, of Camberley, Surrey, and Annabel, daughter of *Mr and Mrs Robert Walker*, of Malvern, Worcestershire.

Mr J.B. Rowe and Miss A.M. Gibb
The engagement is announced between Jonathan, son of Rear-Admiral and Mrs Patrick Rowe, of Meonstoke, Hampshire, and Amanda, *daughter of Mr and Mrs* Robert Gibb, of Wadhurst, East Sussex.

Mr J.B.P.C. Stuart-Smith and Mrs M.K. d'Arcy
The engagement is announced between James, only son of Mr and Mrs James Stuart-Smith, of Copthorne, *Sussex*, and Meredith, widow of John d'Arcy, of Indianapolis, USA.

Mr D. Walker and Miss V.A.A. Lee
The engagement is announced between Duncan, only son of Mr and Mrs Alan Walker, of Tickhill, South Yorkshire, and Victoria Abigail Adams, elder daughter of Mr Christopher Lee, of Chewton Mendip, Somerset, and Mrs Christine Lee, of Ninfield, East Sussex.

Marriage

Mr D.M. Berger and Miss R. de Guzman
The marriage took place on February 14, 1997, in San Diego, California, of Mr David M. Berger and Miss Ria de Guzman.

BMDS: 0171 680 6880
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

TRADE: 0171 481 1982
FAX: 0171 481 9313

I shall be a father to him, and he will be my son. I shall never withdraw my love from him as I withdrew it from your predecessor. 1 Chronicles 17 : 13

BIRTHS

BROOKE - Jane and Kipper are delighted to announce the birth of their son Edward Wyllie on the 4th March 1997.

CHANDLEY *- On March 13th*, to Lucy Morley and Dominic Chandley, a daughter, Daisy Pagan.

COKE - On March 12th, to *Georgia* (née *Powell*) and Toby, a son, Harry Mortimer Anthony.

DEPREE - On Thursday 13th March 1997, to Julia (née Warner) and Max, a son, Rory Edward Dealtry, a brother and source of wonder for George.

DEWAR - On March 11th, to Lynn (née Robertson) and Craig, a son, Nicholas Peter.

FALCONER - On 3rd March 1997, to Ursula (née Brooke Johnson) and Toby, a son, Tom St John, a brother for Ned and Augusta whom they call Algie.

GASKIN - On Sunday 16th March 1997 at Pembury Hospital, Tunbridge Wells, to Caroline (née Dingomal) and Paul, a beautiful baby daughter, Millie Rose.

HART - On 12th *March 1997*, to John and Juliet, a daughter of gold, Aurelia Cecily.

HENDRY - On March 14th *1997, in Madrid, to Sol (née* del Val y Hermoso) and Lyall, a son, Rhydian Angus, a brother for Archie and Isabel.

McLAUGHLIN - On Thursday March 13th 1997, to Susannah Lawton (née Meadway) and John Brendan, a daughter, Callista *Meadway*.

MEADWAY - See McLaughlin.

MILLS - On March 13th 1997, to Deborah (née Wilson) and William, a *son*, *Toby Caleb* Hallam.

MITCHELL - On March 15th at The Portland Hospital, to Emma (née Wates) and *Marcus*, a son, Augustus Edward Marcus.

SAIGOL - On March 10th at The Portland Hospital, to *Seema and Abid, a son, Saif*, a brother for Aliya and Diya.

TRAILL - Angela Christa (née Burry) and Philip George are delighted to announce the birth of their daughter Helena Josephine on the 24th February 1997.

DEATHS

ADAMS - On March 16th, peacefully, Kay aged 82 of Rock, Cornwall. Funeral St Minver Parish Church, Wednesday March 26th 2.15pm.

ADAMS - Peacefully at his home in Leverington after twenty years of cancer courageously borne on 17th March 1997. William Edward aged 77 years. Beloved husband of Ivy and loving *father of Ian and Rita*, father-in-law of Margaret and Frazer and dear grand-pa of Amy, Sarah, Fiona and James. Funeral Service on Thursday 20th March 1997 at St Leonard's Church, Leverington at 3 pm followed by interment in the Churchyard. Cut flowers only please or donations to *St Leonard's Church Fund* may be made at the service or sent to W. Bailey & Son, tel: (01945) 584762.

BAIRNSFATHER - John *Cockburn*, known professionally as Jock Bain. Died on March 13th at Queen Alexandra Hospital, Portsmouth. Beloved husband of Valerie and dearly loved father of Jean, Carl, Rodger and Gordon. Funeral at Portchester Crematorium at 2.30 pm on Friday 21st March. Flowers may be sent to Co-operative Funeral Director, 157 Fratton Road, Portsmouth PO1 5ER.

BALL-GREENE - Joyce suddenly *on March 16th. Much loved* auntie and great-aunt. Funeral Thursday 2 pm St John's Crematorium, Woking. Flowers to Oakcroft Nursing Home, West Byfleet.

BOLTON - On March 16th 1997 at the Churchill Hospital, Oxford, Dr. Frederick Grimshaw, after a short illness. Beloved husband of Joyce and a loving father of Philip, Eleanor, Hilary, Benjamin and Michael and grandfather of Thomas, Nicholas, James and Michael. The funeral service will be held at St Johns Chapel, Oxford Crematorium on Thursday 20th March at 2.30 pm. Family flowers *only, donations for the* Inter-Agency Day Care Group may be sent c/o Reeves & Pain, Funeral Directors, 19 Fairfax Centre, Kidlington, Oxford, OX5 1EZ.

BOND - Geoffrey Kemp on 17th March peacefully at home, aged 91. A Service of Thanksgiving and burial at All Saints Church, *Burbage* on Saturday 22nd March at 1pm. Family flowers only. Donations: Bunton Dolphin Trust, Church Green House, *Badingham Suffolk IP13 8JX*

CARRUTHERS - Rosemary Arden, peacefully on 17th March at Gt. Ryburgh. Funeral Service at King's Lynn *Crematorium* on Thursday 27th March at 2.30pm. No flowers but donations if desired, to Burnham Overy Harbour Trust, c/o The Old Rectory, Longstowe, Cambridge, CB3 7UG.

CROWHURST - Kenneth of Bromley, died peacefully in hospital on Saturday March 15th 1997 in his 83rd year. Funeral Service at Beckenham Crematorium on Tuesday March 25th at *11.30 am. Floral tributes c/o* J.B. Shakespeare Ltd., 67 George Street, Croydon CRO 1LD, tel: (0181) 688-1447.

DAMERELL - Joyce on March 15th suddenly. Sadly missed by Anne and *Jeanette*. Funeral St Andrew's Church, Buckland Monarchorum, 2.30 pm Tuesday 25th March.

DANIELLS - Peacefully at home, *Nora Catherine*, much loved sister, friend, aunt and great-aunt. Family flowers only, donations if desired to Methodist Ministers Housing *Society. Funeral to* take place at East Hampstead Park Crematorium on Friday 21st March at 10.30am. Memorial Service at 2.15pm at Rose Street Methodist Church, Wokingham. Enquiries to J.B. Hall, 142 Finchampstead Road, Wokingham. Tel: 01734 793623.

DICK - J. Kenneth Dick C.B.E. died peacefully in hospital on Sunday following a brief illness. Beloved by his family and many friends. Service at 12 noon on Saturday 22nd March at Randalls Park Crematorium, Leatherhead and afterwards for refreshments at Cedar House Hotel, *Mill Road*, Cobham. No flowers please, donations if wished to Cobham Mill Preservation Trust, 5 Woodend Park, Cobham, Surrey KT11 3BX.

FERGUSON - Peacefully at Dumfries and Galloway Royal Infirmary on Tuesday 18th March 1997. Phyllis Mabel Ferguson of The Changue, Portwilliam. Widow of M.H. Ferguson and formerly widow of Kenneth Bowes, M.D. M.S. F.R.C.O.G. and mother of *Richard* Bowes 1943-1962. Funeral Service in Mochrum Parish Church on Thursday 20th March at 1 pm to which all friends are respectfully invited. *No flowers please*. Donations if desired to the R.N.I.B. on retiral from church or will be accepted by Ian Broll Funeral Director, 15 Main *Street*, Mochrum, Newton Stewart, Wigtownshire, DG8 9LY. Private interment will take place at a later date.

GORDON-LENNOX - Pamela Cicely on 11th March in Pretoria, mother of James and Clare. R.I.P.

GUHA-THAKURTA - *Sunand*. After a long illness borne courageously, on Sunday 9th March 1997 in London. Deeply loved by Wife Savitri, and children Gour and Gouri, Son-in-Law Peter and Grandson Brendan. Sunand was a unique, colourful individual, who despite his mighty intellect and erudition, retained an almost childlike attitude to life. Mourned by his family and friends World-Wide. Cremation service at 3.30pm *19th March 1997* at Golders Green Crematorium, London and Memorial Service on 29th March 1997 in Grosse Pointe, Michigan, USA.

HANSON - On March 11th 1997 at the Harestone Marie Curie Hospice at Caterham, Jayne Gwenllian in her 50th year. Much loved wife of Christopher, mother of David and Elizabeth and *daughter of Evan and Iris* Morgan Lewis. Funeral at St Martin's Church, Brasted on Wednesday 26th March at 2pm. Flowers welcome, but *donations to Harestone* Hospice preferred c/o Francis Chappell & Sons, 27 London Road, Sevenoaks, TN13 1AR.

HAY SMITH - *Peacefully at* home on March 17th 1997, J. Ian Hay Smith, W.S., beloved father of Shirley, Diana, Brian and David and loving grandfather.

HIGHGATE - Suddenly but peacefully, in Uddingston on 16th March 1997, James Brown Knight Batchelor CBE, MA, LLB. Dearly loved brother of Elizabeth Thomson and dear uncle of Douglas. Formerly Senior Partner of Brownlie Watson and Beckett and laterly consultant with Miller Beckett and Jackson and life long member and elder of Park Church Uddingston. Funeral Service at Park Church, 10.30am *on* Friday 21st March 1997 and committal thereafter at Daldowie Crematorium, Broomhouse (East Chapel), at 12 noon. All friends are respectfully invited to either or both Services. No flowers please.

HOY - On 16th March 1997, Fr David Hoy, SJ, Superior at St John's Beaumont. The Requiem Mass will be at Farm Street Church on Friday 21st March at 2 pm. R.I.P.

KINLOCH - Doris, on 17th March 1997, after a short illness. Beloved widow of John, much loved mother of Susan, Diana and David and loving grandmother and great-grandmother. A Service of Thanksgiving will be held at Cleish Parish Church at 2.15 pm on Tuesday 25th March. No flowers please, but donations if desired to Barnardos, 235 Corstorphine Road, Edinburgh EH12 7AR.

KIRWAN - Lady Stella Mary on 16th March, aged 85, at Bolingbroke Hospital, Battersea. Formerly of Kersey, Suffolk. Funeral at Chelsea Old Church, Old Church Street, SW3 at 2.30pm on Tuesday 25th March, followed by a private cremation. Family flowers only. Donations to The Stroke Association, CHSA House, Whitecross Street, EC1Y 8JJ or to the Suffolk Preservation Society.

LAWTON - On 17th March 1997 after many months of deteriorating health, James Ronald Eric aged 77 years. Darling husband of Millicent, adored father of the late Joanna and Elizabeth, much loved grandfather to Jenny, Katy, William and Felicity. Funeral Service at St James Parish Church, Gerrards Cross on *Monday 24th March* at 11.45am followed by private cremation. No *flowers* please, donations if desired to *Parkinson's Disease* Society, c/o Arnold Funeral Service, 38 Oak End Way, Gerrards Cross, SL9 8BR, tel: (01753) 891892.

MACKMIN - John Henry Clinton on Sunday 16th March peacefully at Valley Lodge, Matlock, aged 88. Service at Chesterfield Crematorium on Thursday *27th March at 2 pm*. Flowers or donations for National Asthma Campaign to Greatorex & Sons, The Green, Matlock, DE4 3BU.

MAITLAND - Alice Charlotte. *Died peacefully aged* 40, 14th March 1997, at home with her family. Funeral 3pm, 21st March 1997 at The Church of St Andrew, Norton, Presteigne, Powys. Family *flowers* only, but donations split between our Church and Osler Respiratory Research Trust.

MAWSON *- Alice Margaret, of* Kings Langley, passed away at her home, on Friday 14th March 1997, aged 79 years. Much loved mother of Anthony, David, Mary, Lucy and Dick, and grandmother of Benjy, Ben, Laura, Richie, David, Jonathan, and Emily. Funeral Service will take place at West Herts *Crematorium on Monday* 24th March 1997, at 11 am. Family flowers only please, donations if desired to The Cancer Unit Mount Vernon Hospital c/o J. Worley (Funeral Directors) Ltd., 48 Lawn Lane, Hemel Hempstead, tel: 01442 253465.

MOSS - *Mary Elizabeth* (née Kenyon), wife of Arnold Alec Henry Moss, of Clarendon Crescent, Eccles, Manchester, died suddenly *on 17th March* 1997. Funeral at Eccles Parish Church at 12.45 pm on Thursday 20th March prior to burial at Peel Green Cemetery at 1.30 pm. Plenty of flowers please to the house or to Bridgford & Sons. House open. All enquiries to Bridgford & Sons, 58 Chorley Road, Swinton, tel: (0161) 793-1228.

NELSON - Betty aged 83, late of Fishbourne, widow of the Rev RQ Nelson on Thursday 13th March at home with her family in Cambridge. Funeral service at St Philips Church, 185 Mill Road, Cambridge on Monday March 24th at 12 noon. *Flowers*, or donations to World Vision c/o Cooperative Funeral Services, 34 James Street, Cambridge. Service of *Thanksgiving* at Fishbourne at a later date.

PARKER - Mollie, on 14th March 1997 aged 64 years in hospital and of Maldon, Essex. Funeral Service on Thursday 20th March at Woodham Mortimer Church at 10 am followed by cremation at Chelmsford. Family flowers only please. Donations if desired to Imperial Cancer Research c/o A.G. Smith Funeral *Service*, 7 Spital Road, Maldon. 01621 854293.

RIDDELL - John Rodger Riddell (born Glasgow 1.5.1935) died suddenly 16th March. Survived by two daughters. Funeral 21st March at 3.30pm Hanworth Crematorium, Hounslow Road, Middlesex.

ROYAL - Naida Frances on 13th March *1997* suddenly and peacefully. Widow of the Honourable John Howard and of Geoffrey Royal. Beloved mother of Charles and loving grandmother of *Alex and Francesca. Funeral* at Worthing Crematorium on Monday 24th March at 1.20pm. Any enquiries to F.A. Holland & Son, 16 Ash Lane, Rustington, West Sussex, BN16 3BZ, tel: (01903) 771010.

RUDDOCK - John Greenfield (Jack) suddenly on *15th* March, 1997, at Boothby Graffoe, aged 80 years. Dearly loved husband of Margaret, father of Henry and William, and their wives, Josephine and Eleanor, and grandfather of Thomas Saffery, and Naomi. Thanksgiving at St Peter's Church, Navenby, on Monday, *24th* March, at 11.30 am. Cremation will have taken place. No flowers. Donations as he would have wished to the Salvation *Army (at the Church or c/o* John Holmes, 17 High Street, Navenby, Lincoln).

SALMON - Barbara Magdalen, peacefully at home on 15th March 1997, aged 85 years. Much loved by her many friends. Funeral Service at the Parish Church of St Peter & St Paul, Wadhurst on Tuesday 1st April at 2.30pm. Followed by Cremation. Garden flowers or donations to Friends of Wadhurst Surgery, c/o C. Waterhouse & Sons, High Street, Burwash, E. Sx. tel: (01435) 882219.

SHARPE *- Michael Arbuthnot* M.B.E., late of Her Majesty's Colonial Service (Nyasaland). Born 1915, died at home at Chagford on *March 17th. Funeral at St* Andrew's Parish Church, Moretonhampstead on Monday 24th March at 11am. No flowers. Donations *for* British Legion, *c/o* Drew & Sons, Undertakers, Venton, Drewsteignton, Exeter, Devon EX6 6PG.

SLATER - Jane Helen Slater, suddenly on Friday 14th March. She bore her illness with much courage and dignity. She is greatly missed. Private funeral. Flowers c/o Edward White & Son, 5 South Pallant, Chichester, tel: (01243) 782136.

SWAINSTON - On March 17th peacefully at home with his family, Neville, darling husband of Liz, devoted father of Deborah, Hugh, Richard and Lulu and grandfather of Edward, *Eleanor and Milly. Funeral* Service at Chichester Crematorium on Monday 24th March at 2.30 pm. Enquiries to Reynolds Funeral Service, tel: (01243) 864745.

TEIXEIRA ***DE*** **MATTOS** - Jonkheer Henri A. passed away peacefully on 17th March 1997 at Amesbury Abbey aged 92 years. Beloved husband of the late Mary, *sadly missed* by daughter, Miky and all his family, Jonkheer Van Nispen Tot Sevenaer, Wouter, Alexandra, Sonia, Clara, Jane *Whitteridge, Mary* and John. Funeral Service to take place on Thursday 20th March at St George, Hinton-St-George, near Crewkerne, Somerset, at 11 am followed by interment. Memorial Service at 2 pm at Amesbury Abbey Nursing Home. It is the families preference that donations if desired may go *to the charity of your choice*. Enquiries to Gerald W. Burden Funeral Directors, tel: (01980) 623262.

UNDERWOOD - Myrtle died on March 14th in the Eastbourne and District General Hospital after a short *illness*. She was 87. Elder daughter of May and Charles Johns and sister of the late Douglas Johns. Much loved and missed by *all who knew her, especially* her sons, Tony and Adrian and their wives Betty and Marion, her grandchildren, Clare, Robin, Beccy, Paul and Katy; her sister Olive and brother-in-law Donald and their children, and sister-in-law Joan and her children. Funeral Service at All Saints Church, Grange Road, Eastbourne on Thursday 27th March at 2 pm. Flowers, at her request, to Haine & Son Ltd., 19 South Street, Eastbourne.

VIBLER - Jean-Paul, in St Mary's Hospital on 17th March. Funeral Mass at Notre Dame de France, Leicester Place, WC2, on Monday 24th March at 10am, followed by private cremation. Service of Thanksgiving after Easter.

WARE - Phyllis Marion. Peacefully on 16th March in her 98th year. Widow of Dr. H.A. Ware of Bury St Edmunds. Beloved mother of Jean, Penelope and Veronica. Grandmother and great-grandmother. For further details contact L. Fulcher 01284 754049.

WARREN - Judith Cossans on 16th March, at home, second daughter of Muriel and the late Edward Warren, and sister to Marcia and Nadine. According to her wishes private funeral and no *flowers. Donations in her memory*, if desired, to Watford Peace Hospice, Macmillan Fund or Marie Curie Cancer Care. Our grateful thanks to all those who have shown such love and care.

WHARTON - Gertrude Margaret, on March 18th. Dearly loved wife of Chris, mother of Helen and Christopher. Grandmother and great-grandmother. Funeral at Adderbury Parish *Church on Tuesday, March* 25th at 2.15 pm. Flowers may be sent to J&M Humphris, 32 Albert Street, Banbury OX16 8DG.

WHEELER - George Arthur, on March 15th at the South Pembrokeshire Hospital, after a long illness borne with humour and great dignity. *Funeral Friday 21st* March, with a service at St Mary's Church, Pembroke, at 2.30 pm, followed by interment at St Michael's Cemetery. *Family flowers* only please, but if desired donations in lieu for the R.N.L.I. may be sent c/o John Roberts & Son, 51, Bush Street, Pembroke Dock, Pembs., *SA72 6AN*.

WHITING - On March 16th peacefully Elwin, beloved wife of the late John Whiting and *mother of Roger* (deceased) and Jeremy.

WILLANS - On March 13th 1997, Mary Isabel (née Taylor of Tonbridge), after a long illness, at Brendoncare Home, Stone, Bucks, aged 74. Beloved wife of James, sister of Fred and Arthur, and devoted mother of daughter Carol and son-in-law Simon. Funeral, Friday 21st March, 10.00am at Amersham Crematorium. All flowers to K.Y. Green *Funeral* Directors, *tel: 01296 82041*.

WISE - Norman Douglas, Barrister at Law (Rtd.), died peacefully at Trinity *Hospice, Clapham, on March* 15th. Much loved father, father-in-law and grandfather. Service at Putney Vale Crematorium on *March 21st at 11.30 am. No* flowers, but donations *if* desired to the British Heart Foundation or Trinity Hospice *c/o* F.W. Paine, 29 Coombe Road, Kingston-on-Thames, Surrey KT2 7AY.

WOOD - Keith Ashley, MB.BS, MRCGP, passed away on 16th March 1997 after a short illness. Greatly missed by all his family and friends. The funeral will be held at Portsmouth Cathedral, High *Street*, on *Friday* 21st March at 12.30 *pm* with private cremation afterwards. Family flowers only. Donations welcomed for The *Rowans Hospice c/o Barrells* Funeral Directors, "Lawnswood", 245 Fratton Road, Portsmouth, PO1 5PA.

WOODCOCK - On March 15th in Epsom, Laura Mary, wife of the late Rt. Hon. George Woodcock. Funeral Service on Monday March 24th at 10am at St Joseph's R/C Church, Epsom, followed by burial in Epsom Cemetery. Flowers and enquiries to A & E Longhurst, F/D, 21-23 Kingston Road, Ewell, Surrey, tel: (0181) 393-1077.

FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS

HOY - A Requiem Mass for Fr. David Hoy, SJ, will be held on Friday 21st March at 2pm at Farm Street Church (114 *Mount Street, London* W1Y 6AH), followed by interment at St Mary's Cemetery, Kensal Green. R.I.P.

IN MEMORIAM — PRIVATE

BRITTAIN - Samuel William Brittain ('Samson') born Lowestoft 19th March 1897, died in Great Horkesley 13th June 1986. In constant loving memory. M.

PILGRIM - Angeliqué tragically died 19th March 1992 aged *28* years. Forever in my heart and mind. Simply the Best daughter any mother ever had. God bless you Darling, love Mum.

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OBITUARIES

SHIREEN AKBAR

Shireen Akbar, MBE, head of adult and community education at the Victoria and Albert Museum, died of cancer on March 8 aged 52. She was born on July 13, 1944.

Shireen Akbar was a courageous and innovative arts and community educator, whose work earned her not just an MBE but an international reputation. Through her own example she encouraged two generations of South Asian women — many of them lacking confidence and opportunities, and with English as their second language — to aspire to improve their lives.

She also persuaded major museums to open their doors to the South Asian community. She developed arts education programmes which enabled thousands of women to join the threads of their personal experience in order to create works of art of extraordinary beauty and power.

Born Shireen Hasib in Calcutta, she grew up in an influential Bengali family which moved after Partition to what was to become Bangladesh. She was educated at Viqarunisa School and Holy Cross College in Dhaka and at Cambridge University, remaining in Britain to become a teacher in London.

In 1979 she took up a post at Bethnal Green Adult Institute as a language tutor for Asian girls and women. Always quick to perceive people's needs, she recognised that the racial abuse experienced by Asian women outside their homes — and the restrictions placed upon them by their own communities — necessarily meant that language teaching should be only one aspect of her work.

Shireen Akbar with a group of schoolchildren in the Victoria and Albert Museum's Nehru Gallery of Indian art

She established links for Bangladeshi children between home and school and became an interpreter for families who did not have an English speaker. She collected children from school so that their parents would not worry about their safety, and took them to visit places they would not otherwise have seen. At that time she was virtually alone in this kind of work, and her initiatives redefined community education in London.

They also led directly to *Our Exhibition*, an exhibition in 1982 at the Commonwealth Institute of art work done by Bangladeshi children. Two years later, by now working for the Inner London Education Authority, she travelled to India and Bangladesh to collect resource material to support multicultural work undertaken by teachers. In 1986 she helped to organise the exhibition *Crafts of Bangladesh* at the Crafts Council which travelled to Birmingham and Bradford. She then raised £5,000 to purchase the exhibition as a permanent resource for schools, adult education institutions and community centres in east London. These collections are still in use today.

The success of *Crafts of Bangladesh* persuaded the Whitechapel Art Gallery to employ her in 1988 to help to organise *Woven Air*, an exhibition of Bangladeshi textiles, for which she also developed an acclaimed education programme. This proved to be a milestone in her work and was swiftly followed by a commission from the Museum of Mankind to create the exhibition *Traffic Art*, a collection of rickshaw paintings. Through all of these exhibitions Shireen sought to show the continuing beauty and depth of the arts of Bangladesh.

In 1991 she joined the staff of the Victoria and Albert Museum as the first Education Officer in charge of multicultural education and the period of her greatest achievement began. Building on her earlier experience in Tower Hamlets, and inspired by the great South Asian collections in the museum, she developed a remarkable educational experiment which will endure as a pioneering example of the way in which museums can, and must, communicate the magic and excitement of their collections to people of all ages and different cultural backgrounds.

Supported by the generosity of the Hamlyn Foundation she conceived and brought to fruition *The Mughal Tent Project*. Using the tent as a symbol of home, of refuge, of dispossession and of art she travelled the length and breadth of England inspiring groups of South Asian women to visit the alien environment of the museum galleries and to rediscover their heritage, their creativity and their self-esteem.

From this initial contact with the V & A, often the first time the participants had ever visited a museum, she formed groups to work together in making a tent hanging which would express their aspirations and release their creativity. To her surprise, a project primarily developed for Asian women became a source of inspiration for women from many other communities as widely separated as Los Angeles and South Africa. Using a diversity of techniques, embroidery, collage and paint, they created a sequence of brilliant panels which will go on display in the museum in the summer in the exhibition *Shamiana: The Mughal Tent*.

The success of this project was an example of the power of simple actions to communicate across the divide of religion, education and culture. The power and beauty of these tent panels will be an abiding monument to Shireen Akbar's indomitable spirit.

She was divorced from her husband and is survived by a daughter.

ROBERT DICKE

Robert Dicke, American physicist, died in Princeton, New Jersey, on March 4 aged 80. He was born in St Louis, Missouri, on May 6, 1916.

ROBERT DICKE had the misfortune to be beaten to the most significant cosmological discovery of the past half century by two rivals who did not even realise what they had found until he told them. Together with James Peebles, Dicke had calculated that if the Universe had indeed begun with the Big Bang, relict radiation from that event should be detectable. He was in a meeting in his office at Princeton, planning an experiment to try to find it, when his phone rang. When he finally put it down, he said: "We've been scooped."

The call had come from Robert Wilson and Arno Penzias, who had stumbled on the radiation when using an antenna to detect radio noise. They found a signal that seemed to come from everywhere and from nowhere, bathing the Universe in microwaves characteristic of a temperature of three degrees above absolute zero. Puzzled, they were advised to contact Dicke, who told them the significance of what they had found — the best evidence yet that the Big Bang really occurred. Wilson and Penzias won the Nobel Prize for the discovery, but Dicke did not, an exclusion that some physicists deemed unfair.

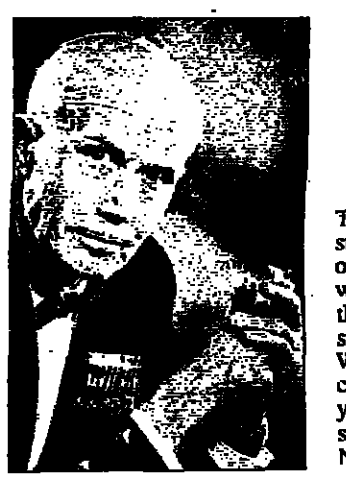
Robert Henry Dicke made many important contributions to physics over a wide range of topics. Born in St Louis, he graduated from Princeton in 1939, and then took a doctorate in nuclear physics at the University of Rochester. Joining the Radiation Laboratory at Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1941, he spent the war working on radar, returning to Princeton in 1946. He remained there for the rest of his life, from 1975 as Albert Einstein Professor of Science.

Dicke's experiments on mass supported Einstein's General Theory of Relativity, by showing that gravitational mass (measured by weighing) is the same as inertial mass (measured by resistance to acceleration) to one part in 100 billion. But in 1961 he challenged Einstein's legacy by putting forward, with the graduate student Carl Brans, the idea that gravity might vary with time, becoming weaker as the Universe expanded. This theory ultimately proved at variance with the data, and had to be abandoned, but Dicke remained a major gravitational theorist and contributed greatly to the renaissance of gravity studies that he had begun in the 1950s.

Dicke combined the skills of the experimentalist with those of the theorist, not a common combination. He held more than 50 patents, most of them relating to his work on radar, but he also anticipated the invention of the laser, creating a similar device intended to work with infra-red radiation.

Dicke is survived by his wife Annie, whom he married in 1942, and by a daughter and two sons.

J. R. J. CAMERON



J. R. J. Cameron, President of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, 1967-70, died on February 23 aged 94. He was born on June 24, 1902.

THE doyen of Edinburgh surgery, J. R. J. Cameron was one of that diminishing band who matured professionally in the hard school of military surgery during the Second World War, and whose dedication in the early postwar years helped to set the high standards of the then new National Health Service.

His two main ambitions, both of which he fulfilled, were to become what was known as a "chief" in his own teaching hospital, and to be president of his royal college. Throughout his long life his idiosyncratic style was unaltered by success or failure.

James Roderick Johnston Cameron, known to several generations of Edinburgh doctors simply as "JR" and to his friends always as Derick, was born in Belfast. His father was a dental surgeon who died young in South Africa. His mother was a great-niece of Sir James Young Simpson, one of the great names in the history of Edinburgh medicine. Cameron was educated at George Watson's College. He intended to follow in his father's footsteps and obtained the licentiate in dental surgery in 1926. But he already had decided to become a doctor as well as a dentist, and in the following year he graduated in medicine as a triple licentiate of the Scottish Royal Colleges.

After holding resident hospital posts in Edinburgh, he spent a year in Montreal, working in the pathology department of McGill University and at the Royal Victoria Hospital. On his return, having obtained the Fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh by examination, he was appointed clinical tutor at Edinburgh Royal Infirmary. This was a golden age in Edinburgh surgery and Cameron was strongly influenced by the teaching and practice of such surgical giants as Sir David Wilkie, Sir John Fraser, Sir Henry Wade and Norman Dott.

On the outbreak of war he volunteered for the RAMC and during the next five years served as a surgical specialist in four different overseas theatres. He was in the Allied force landed at Narvik in 1940 and, being able to ski, was seconded to act as medical officer to the Chasseurs Alpins. Later he served in Egypt, Palestine, Iran and Iraq.

He acted for several months as Consultant Surgeon to Persia and Iraq (PAI) Force before being transferred in 1944 to Italy. There he commanded the combined surgical divisions of two field hospitals in which, during weeks of heavy fighting, he had ultimate responsibility for nearly 1,000 surgical beds.

After demobilisation, he returned to Edinburgh and took up civilian practice again. With the advent of the National Health Service in 1948, he was designated consultant surgeon to the Royal Infirmary and, in 1957, he was appointed surgeon-in-charge of wards.

Cameron had worked with Keith Paterson-Brown, a master of the surgery of the thyroid gland and, after the retirement of his senior colleague, he became Edinburgh's foremost exponent of this technically demanding sub-speciality. Another of his interests was the surgery of skin tumours; his experience in treating melanoma was probably unrivalled in Scotland.

Cameron's meticulous, unspectacular technique achieved excellent results with a minimal incidence of complications. In 1963 he became vice-president of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh and in 1967 he was elected president. In this capacity, he played a major part in a long overdue revision of the college laws. Mindful of his own early commitment to dentistry, he took a special interest in the activities of the college's dental faculty and, in recognition of his notable services to it, he was awarded an honorary fellowship.

During his presidential term Cameron travelled widely and led the examining teams which conducted the first fellowship examinations to be held in Burma and in Bangladesh. His contributions to the promotion of intercollegiate co-operation worldwide were also honoured in 1970 by the award of the honorary fellowship of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons. His other lasting memorial is the Sir James Young Simpson lectureship in the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, which was established in 1965 largely through his efforts.

The onset of blindness progressively reduced his activities. But he always appeared for the Simpson lecture and, in 1992, this happily coincided with his 90th birthday.

Derick Cameron was proud of his Highland antecedents. On full-dress occasions he nearly always wore the kilt and no honour that came his way gave him greater satisfaction than the presidency of the Edinburgh branch of the Clan Cameron Association, which he held during the 1950s.

His marriage in 1939 to Dorothy Pearson brought him great and lasting happiness. Her death in 1995 was a devastating blow to him. He is survived by two sons and two daughters.

BRIAN MERRIKIN HILL

Brian Merrikin Hill, poet, died on February 19 aged 79. He was born on June 6, 1917.

A REGIONAL poet whose voice was for a long time not known outside the North of England where he wrote, Brian Merrikin Hill often took as his subject his native Tyneside and Yorkshire, where he worked as a teacher. He has been described by David Gascoyne as "one of the most unjustifiably neglected poets of the age".

He was born in Newcastle upon Tyne, the son of a Methodist minister. Two teachers at the Heaton Secondary School in Newcastle nurtured in him a reverence for Shelley and for French poetry; this was to lead him eventually to Oxford, where he read English. Years later, he had two books of translations from the French published: *Saint-Pol-Roux* (Mammon Press, 1986) and *With Planetary Eyes* (University of Salzburg, 1993).

The poverty of Tyneside marked the poet: he was nine at the time of the General Strike. His socialist father was cold-shouldered by some of the better-off of his flock because of his sympathy with those who were out of work.

From such experiences Hill developed an anger at social injustice which found its expression in *Conversational Elegies for a Tyneside Kid*. Although never a believer in traditional Christianity, Hill, like his father, never ceased to seek spiritual redemption for mankind in a world that so often seemed askew.

After leaving Oxford, he taught for some years in private schools, moving in 1948 to the progressive Wennington School, Wetherby, Yorkshire; he was headmaster in his last four years there. He retired from teaching in 1978 in order to devote himself to poetry, in which he carved out for himself a second, more enduring career.

The gift had always been there. His *Eighteen Poems* (1947) is a collectors' item. But a second pamphlet, *Two Poems of Pilgrimage*, did not appear until 1977. Extracts from both publications are to be found in Hill's last collection, *Dolphins and Outlaws*, published by the University of Salzburg in its series *Salzburg Studies in English Literature — Poetic Drama and Poetic Theory*. Arguably, his finest achievements are the personal poems of *Wakeful in the Sleep of Time* (Taxvs Press, 1984) and *Local History* (Littlewood Press, 1985) and, because of their social content, *The European Letters* (Taxvs, 1987).

The teacher in him remained. He joined the small Yorkshire poetry group the Pennine Poets in the 1970s and had poems published in their magazine *Pennine Platform*. Three years later he took over the editorship of the magazine and continued to publish it regularly until his last illness, making it a vehicle for his own ideas and beliefs. His critical writings were instructive, if idiosyncratic. He was never influenced by fashion.

He is survived by his wife Irene, and their son and daughter.

ON THIS DAY

March 19, 1948

Sir Ernest Gowers's Plain Words *was a guide for civil servants to the writing of clear and unambiguous English. Written at the instigation of Lord Bridges, head of the Civil Service, the book's attractive style won it admirers far outside the service, and it became a bestseller.*

"PLAIN WORDS" FOR CIVIL *SERVICE*

FORBIDDEN PHRASES

WESTMINSTER, THURSDAY

A vigorous protest against circumlocution in Government statements was made by MR. KEELING (Twickenham, C.) when, on the motion for the adjournment in the House of Commons to-night, he raised the subject of Government English.

The first object of a Government statement, he said, was that it should convey its meaning readily. The subject had apparently caused uneasiness in some Government departments, and he understood that a comprehensive book called "Plain Words", written by a distinguished Civil servant, Sir Ernest Gowers, *was to be issued for the guidance of all* departments.

An official statement should be direct, simple, brief, vigorous, and lucid, and certain rules for achieving those qualities were generally accepted.

The first rule was that a writer ought to prefer the familiar word to the far-fetched. A Government department was more likely to be understood if instead of saying "implement", it used the words "carry on" or "fulfil". Was it really necessary to talk about "unfavourable weather conditions" when "bad weather" *was meant?*.

The second principle was that the concrete should be preferred to the abstract. It was not of much use telling a miner that he should make a "constructive and flexible approach to the problem of production." (Laughter.) The third principle was to prefer short, straight speech to circumlocution. Must everything be "in short supply"? Could it not be "scarce"? Members were often advised that a matter was "under active consideration". Was it possible for a thing to be considered otherwise than "actively"? He was told by a Civil servant that the *phrase really meant that the* file had been lost and attempts were being made to find it. (Laughter.)

He hoped that "Plain Words" would incorporate an *index expurgatoris* — a list of forbidden words and phrases — and that a copy would be placed in the library of the House of Commons.

MR. HALL, Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Colne Valley, Lab.), said that the phrases referred to were not peculiar to Civil servants. English was a personal language and frequently one got phrases which might not be grammatical but which directly conveyed the meaning. For instance, there was a record in Whitehall of a marginal note by Mr. Churchill which read: "This is nonsense up with which I will not put." (Laughter.)

There was much phrasing which had become established by long usage and this applied largely to Parliamentary draftsmen. He agreed that there was a good deal of ambiguity, but much of the difficulty had arisen because Civil sevants had to interpret Acts of Parliament to the ordinary citizen. "Plain Words" was used as a text-book in the service and every effort was made towards simplification.

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Science: the bitter pill forced down once a year

Why does the Sun still go round the Earth?

Time once again for National Brainwashing Week. Hype as insidious as Mother's Day is now in progress to convince us that we ought to pay more attention to the old dear. I refer, of course, to science. National Science Week was dreamt up four years ago by the Department of Trade and Industry to give all those worthy enterprises that already knock themselves out in the name of science a chance to do more of it with the hope that this time some of the "don't cares" will pay attention.

I have nothing against science. Years ago I was chairman of the Association of British Science Writers for two years. Field trips, such as going to see the dinosaur tracks in the Connecticut River Valley or the CERN particle accelerator near Geneva, are among my cherished memories. But I do hate Thought Police, and what is being done in this week, which has no particular claim on the calendar except the theme gap between Mother's Day and Easter, feels like propaganda. Newspapers are pretty immune but the BBC has swallowed it whole.

BRENDA MADDOX

In aid of what? The one conclusion to be drawn from previous science weeks is that they have had no effect whatsoever. Belief in the supernatural, the irrational, the paranormal has never been higher. Many newspapers would sooner dispense with their weather reports than with their astrologist. Every so often a poll shows that many people still think that the Sun goes round the Earth: it's just common sense, as we can all see for ourselves every night when the sun goes down.

For the converted, Britain is well served. The science programmes on radio and television, and the pages in the newspapers, are very good. BBC2's *Horizon*, at its new grown-up time of 9.25pm on Thursdays, is drawing well over five million viewers a week — impressive when you consider that the alien-haunted *X-Files* gets seven million. Why not tell some other branch of knowledge that it ought to try harder to spread enlightenment? Why not National Economics Week? I'm sure we all need help telling the difference between GDP and GNP.

I don't buy the argument that Dolly the cloned sheep has made science more interesting to a wider public. What excites people is ethics, religion and survival, not science. They are alarmed at threats to their sense of identity and to their cherished beliefs. They want to know what the law should do to control future research. What they do not want to hear is the scientific truth: that nurture is as important as nature in shaping the individual, sheep or child. Dr Steve Jones, the geneticist, puts it best: "If you want to design your son's future, send him to Eton." No genetic engineering, he says, will produce such a guaranteed result.

The main lesson about science is failing to get through. Science is a method, not a body of established fact, a way of overturning certainties, not of proclaiming them. How many times in this past agonised year of BSE have you heard someone say "I wish they'd just tell us the truth"? As if "they", the scientists, were somehow like the Cabinet, a group who know something they are not telling, rather than disparate investigators around the world puzzled by a disease for which there is still no absolutely proven link to human beings. I once heard a Russian ask my husband, then Editor of *Nature*, the British science journal, "How much of what you print is wrong?"

"All of it," was the answer. That is, in time, today's knowledge will be supplanted.

That warning ought to be at the beginning of all so-called "science" programmes. I would improve them another way. Before plunging into a discussion of Fermat's Last Theorem or the beauty of the square of the number minus-one (see tonight's *Seven Wonders of the World* on BBC2), I would set on the screen "To understand this programme, what you should know is . . ." Then, at the end, before those endless lists of credits which thank every museum, photo archive and laboratory from here to Yucatan, I would say "What this programme has shown is . . ."

I would not try to dress up health, diet, religion and gee-whiz gadgetry as "science". I would not try to teach the Second Law of Thermodynamics without explaining what the First Law is. And I would say that scientists who admit to uncertainty are the trustworthy ones. Above all, I would stop insulting science by treating it as a bitter pill that has to be sugared and forced down once a year.

I have always told American friends that Britain did not need presidential-style television debates because the party leaders face each other all the time in the House of Commons. Yet the American model does seem to have stirred an appetite in Britain for encounters more direct and less predictable than the ritualistic *Question Time*. Why not then go the whole American hog and ask the Prime Minister to give regular televised press conferences? Even if these did not yield great moments — such as the veteran reporter May Craig's question to John F. Kennedy: "Mr President, what are you doing for women?" — they would let fresh air into a closed system.

THE LISTENER

THE NEWS BEHIND THE HEADLINES

Eight MPs ready for any action

FIGHTING the general election may seem like small beer to eight intrepid MPs who agreed to experience the rigours of military life for a year as part of the Armed Forces Parliamentary Scheme. Their exploits, which were recorded by a BBC2 documentary team, make taking to the hustings look like a doddle.

In the first two programmes in the series, *Politicians on Parade*, Lady Olga Maitland, the Conservative MP, is pitted against John Home Robertson, a Labour colleague, on the Army firing range. Lady Olga apparently took with gusto the challenge of training with the Forces, but admitted she had cheated a little and had hidden an essential lipstick in one of the pockets of her fatigues.

Other game MPs who took part include the Tories Peter Luff and Sir Roger Moate, and the Labour members Andrew Miller and Paddy Tipping.

The final episode shows the Tory Piers Merchant and the Labour Gerry Steinberg experiencing their first Hawk jet flight. To prepare for the flight the two were put in a decompression chamber and suffered such bad memory loss that Mr Steinberg could not remember the name of the Prime Minister. It is tragic what some MPs will do to get on the telly.

Mix-ups: John Prescott and Jane Moore of *The Sun*

False alarm

THERE was mayhem at the Sunday Mirror last Saturday night after reports that John Prescott, deputy leader of the Labour Party, had had a heart attack. An anonymous caller to the newsdesk reported that Mr Prescott had been attending a function at Cave Castle, Humberside, when he collapsed and was taken to hospital strapped to a stretcher and clutching his chest.

A new front page was drawn up with a huge picture of Mr Prescott, looking solemn if not exactly dead, and a team of reporters leapt into action, telephoning hospitals, *the emergency services and* the Castle. Twenty minutes later, Mr Prescott rang the newsdesk and said: "Eh, what's all this about me 'avin 'eart attack? Some bugger's been winding you up." Suspicion has fallen on hacks from rival papers.

● *GOOD news for pluggers. Channel 5 has made record companies an offer it hopes they cannot refuse. Artists with new releases will be able to get free plugs not once but* three times *in one day. You provide the artist, the station promises, and we will get them on* Exclusive, *the five-nights-a-week entertainment news show presented by the Virgin Radio DJ Jonathan Coleman, plus on the late-night chat show presented by Jack Docherty and* Five's Company, *the afternoon magazine programme hosted by a posse of bright young things. How happy the audience will be with such saturation coverage, however, is another matter.*

Dressy award

AT THE British Press Awards at the Royal Lancaster Hotel, Jane Moore, women's editor of *The Sun*, was approached by a slavering old boy who thrust a metal slab into her hands and said: "I'd like you to take this award for being the best-dressed person here."

The next morning, she realised what she had been given — *The Guardian*'s award for team reporting. Over in Farringdon Road there was much beard-stroking and pencil-chewing among *The Guardian*'s diggers about the whereabouts of their trophy.

Ms Moore used it as a paperweight in her Wapping office until the joke wore thin and then she biked it back to Alan Rusbridger, Editor of *The Guardian*, with a note saying: "It's a long, tedious story, but hopefully you'll know who this belongs to."

Ms Moore received a note of thanks saying: "Not since the Jules Rimet trophy (World Cup) disappeared in 1966 has there been such a thing . . ."

Model writer

WHEN *GQ Active*, Condé Nast's new monthly handbook for outdoor types, is launched next month, it will be heavy on celebrity columnists with the model Yasmin le Bon writing the motoring column and the footballer-wine buff Lee Chapman advising readers on drinks.

"Yasmin just loves driving and knows a lot about cars," trills a spokeswoman. "And Lee has a very extensive and valuable cellar. We know their capabilities."

● *Callers to* The Sun, *the newspaper that backs Tony Blair, yesterday received a cheery greeting from staff: "Hello, the New Sun."*

Attitude-altering slaps

ADVERTISING

BRITVIC Soft Drinks is hoping to repeat the soaraway success of its 1991 campaign for Orange Tango by launching an anarchic commercial which exploits the countdown to the general election.

The ads feature caricatures of MPs being humiliated in a typical Orange Tango scenario. It will break on March 30 on Channel 5, which begins broadcasting on the same day. Chanel No. 5 says it will be the first ad to air on the new station.

Britvic changed the face of soft drinks advertising with its Orange Man slapping people in the face. Sister brands Apple, Lemon and Blackcurrant Tango have used similarly off-the-wall work, with Blackcurrent Tango last week picking up the Best Commercial of the Year prize at the British Television Advertising Awards for its "St George" ad filmed on the cliffs of Dover.

THE Institute of Practitioners in Advertising has run a competition among communications students to create an advertising campaign that will stir apathetic 18 to 25-year-olds into voting.

Fewer than 45 per cent of young people bothered to vote in the last election — an issue that was tackled by a rather lacklustre £750,000 government campaign last year and was debated only last week in the House of Lords.

One winning entrant suggested hiring a youth icon such as Chris Evans to front a rousing campaign to push teenagers towards the polling station.

Perhaps it is not surprising that today's youth feels disenfranchised. One statistic unearthed by the students was that 175 MPs are aged over 60 and only 25 under 40.

AGENCY brows will furrow at the news that Stella Artois is siphoning much of its advertising budget this summer into sponsorship and marketing.

The UK's premium lager is injecting £25 million into linking its name with film entertainment by means of, among numerous other projects, broadcast sponsorships of movies on both Channels 4 and 5 and national sponsorship of Virgin Radio's "Big Screen" film round-up show.

Any advertising activity will be virtually lost among all this, with plans only for a modest £750,000 cinema campaign through its agency Lowe Howard-Spink. Last year's total ad spend was a sturdier £4.2 million.

BELINDA ARCHER

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Channel 5 sets out its new order of the day

Celebrities and comedies to fill the unexploited time slots, reports **Alexandra Frean**

Dawn Airey believes there is "an expectation to perform well immediately"

For the past few months, Dawn Airey, the director of programmes at Channel 5, has been keeping a diary chronicling the ups and downs of her efforts to get the nation's newest television station on air on March 30. Much to the dismay of her boyfriend, she sits down for three hours every Saturday, her only "day off", to write it.

If Airey goes the way of other media launch bosses and loses her job after a few months, she may well find that that diary comes in useful: many publishers would no doubt be interested in publishing *The Confessions of a Channel 5 Insider*.

Airey is too busy to give the idea of failure more than a fleeting thought, however. "I spend all of my days in meetings solving problems. Problem-solving is what I am good at — that and making decisions quickly. Only at around 8pm can I start doing the rest of my work," she says.

Unlike Channel 4, launched 15 years ago proclaiming its minority remit with "Viewers Keep Out" signs all over it, Channel 5 is entering a market hungry for more choice, and expecting to have its mass-market tastes catered for. The margins for error are therefore quite small.

"There is a big expectation from both the audience and the advertising community for us to perform well immediately. The audience won't tolerate anything that is of a lesser standard than they can see elsewhere," Airey summarises. She later admits, however, that at least one show in her schedule is a "real turkey".

Airey has already revealed Channel 5's programming hand quite extensively, placing emphasis on its user-friendly "stripped and stranded" approach to scheduling and its heavy reliance on American imports. Britain's first daily soap, *Family Affairs*, will run at 6.30pm; a celebrity gossip show at 7pm; nature and wildlife programmes at 7.30pm; the news at 8pm; leisure and lifestyle shows at 8.30pm and a nightly movie at 9pm. It is hardly earth-shattering stuff.

Where advertisers believe that Channel 5 seems most likely to make its presence felt is at the margins of its schedule, in the afternoon and late at night. These are areas where the existing terrestrial channels have a patchy record. Although the audiences are small at this time of day in absolute terms, Channel 5 is well placed to do well in terms of audience share.

Airey describes her mid-afternoon programme, *Five's Company*, as a "high-energy gang show" presented by bright young things and offering chat, celebrity interviews and games and quizzes that the audience can play at home. "It will have the feel of a radio phone-in show on television," Airey says.

"All the existing broadcasters now recognise that there's a potentially large audience in the afternoon. I tried to cater for it when I was at Channel 4 with *Love in the Afternoon*, which was aimed at young housewives," she adds.

Rival broadcasters have already taken note and begun to schedule competitively against Channel 5. "Channel 4 has just launched *Pet Rescue* and *Collectors Lot* in the afternoons, and ITV has gone into the afternoon on a network, not a regional, basis. That is a direct result of us. All of those shows are catering for an older audience, and yet half the audience available to view at that time is under 50," Airey says.

The other slot where advertisers believe that Airey has placed herself in a strong position is post-11pm, which has a distinctly "young urban male" feel. Airey hopes to achieve every day at this time what Channel 4 and BBC2 have already achieved on Friday nights. That is, to create a raft of youth-orientated comedy programmes aimed at those too young to be in bed but too satisfied with life to be out trying to change the world.

At 11pm, Jack Docherty, the Scottish stand-up comedian, has been given a chat show based on the American David Letterman format. It will include more celebrity guests, live music, scripted gags and topical chit-chat. The potential returns of such a show are high, particularly given the lack of any real competition in the evening chat show stakes. However, previous attempts to introduce Letterman-style programmes into the UK have failed miserably, even with presenters as experienced as Danny Baker and Jonathan Ross, so the Docherty strategy is a risky one.

The programme will be followed by several strands of risque comedy programming, such as monologues by Jenny Eclair, a sketch show called *We Know Where You Live*, a celebrity quiz show *Bring Me the Head of LE* (Light Entertainment) and a medical quiz show, *Tibs and Fibs*.

Although Airey won't say so, the shows are clearly expected to push the boundaries of taste and decency to the limits and to take Channel 5 beyond the audience that actually watches it. With few light alternatives on the rival channels, the slot might just be one where the channel's audience share rises above the 5 per cent which Airey says she is aiming for overall.

Airey is also pinning her faith in Channel 5's nightly showbiz gossip programme, *Exclusive*, presented by the Virgin Radio DJ Jonathan Coleman. She intends to generate publicity for the show by feeding titbits from it — (yet more) celebrity interviews, star scandals, Hollywood casting tips etc — to the tabloid papers. "I expect the programme to result in stories in the press every day."

She denies that the programme will run out of ideas. "Every day there are five terrestrial channels and 30-odd satellite channels. There are masses of stories concerning the stars," she says.

A joker in the pack for Airey may well prove to be the channel's Saturday evening prime-time light-entertainment show, *Night Fever*. Based on a format bought in from the French broadcaster TF1, it has all the madcap exuberance and intellectual paucity of Chris Evans's *Don't Forget Your Toothbrush*. The programme, hosted by the Madness singer Sugs, pits celebrity teams against each other in a topical quiz, punctuated by karaoke singing contests, where the audience — including those at home — is expected to join in. It is daft, but it might just catch on.

Claiming that she always wants to offer an alternative to the other main channels, rather than present them with head-to-head competition, Airey says she has no intention of copying Channel 4 and BBC2 by running themed seasons. Instead, she is hoping to run evenings built around a major special event, such as the British Fashion Awards, one of the few glamour events still not given the full TV treatment.

Magnus Linklater on a Scottish circulation drive

Flying Scotsman carries the banner of devolution

AS commuters emerged from mainline stations in London on Monday morning they were assailed with an unusual sound. Instead of the roar of the traffic, they heard the skirl of the pipes. This was not, as you may imagine, the result of some uncompleted *Jacobite business* from 1745, it was a marketing exercise: the launch of *The Scotsman* as a properly distributed national newspaper in the South East. From this week, late editions of a publication which calls itself Scotland's National Newspaper will be flown down from Edinburgh to London, reaching the warehouses early enough for it to be on sale in newsagents alongside the London-based nationals.

Scottish news, opinion and up-to-date football results, will now be available on breakfast tables in Mornington Crescent as well as Morningside for the first time since the paper was founded in 1817.

It is the fulfilment of a dream long held. Hitherto *The Scotsman* has trundled down by train, arriving too late to reach any but a scattering of outlets. Its London sale, as a result, has rarely risen above 1,200, and frustrated expatriates have wearied of complaining about its absence. As Editor, I argued fruitlessly for a London print run, but came away defeated by the cost.

The paper's current owners, the Barclay Brothers, have deeper pockets. Initially the paper will be flown down at considerable expense. Later, the idea is to print in London. Plans for a reciprocal arrangement with the *Financial Times* have come to naught, but there are other irons in the fire.

THE SCOTSMAN

Scotland: Let the English control their own affairs

Monday's edition: available in London

The question now is: what will it achieve, and whose interests are being served? The immediate circulation objectives, as outlined by the paper's Editor, Martin Clarke, its Editor-in-Chief, Andrew Neil, and its Chief Executive, Bert Hardy, are modest: possibly 3,000 to 5,000, rising to 10,000 in a few years. On purely financial grounds that hardly counts as a worthwhile exercise. A similar investment in Glasgow, where the paper currently has only a wretched 6,000 circulation, would produce better results.

But London is where the paper's owners would like to make their mark. They want *The Scotsman* to be talked about as a national rather than a regional paper, they want it to feature on the *Today* programme, they want it to be noticed.

And so it should be. In the run-up to a general election and in its aftermath, Scottish devolution will be a key issue. To be able to read about it from a Scottish perspective in London should be invaluable for anyone who believes there is intelligent life north of the Wash. On the other hand, the idea that *The Scotsman* might become a latter-day *Manchester Guardian*, fulfilling a need for a non-metropolitan voice in the South, is probably unrealistic.

At the point where *The Guardian* went "national" in 1961, it already had more than 40,000 readers in the South, with every evidence that this was only the tip of the iceberg. In today's television age, there is unlikely to be a huge demand for a paper from the north, outside a small circle of Scottish exiles, and institutions with an interest in Scottish markets and politics. My bet is that a gain of 5,000, modest as that may sound, is about the right target.

Of more concern to its existing readers is the paper's political stance. It has long been axiomatic that *The Scotsman* is the voice of devolution, a left-of-centre, decentralist, radical paper, representing the broad consensus of Scottish opinion, out of sympathy with successive Tory administrations, and committed to political reform. That may all be about to change.

Monday's edition announced that the paper now believes Labour's plans for a Scottish parliament to be "grievously wounded" because of its failure to answer the West Lothian question. The idea that Scottish MPs should be allowed to debate English matters at Westminster while English MPs had no say over Scottish issues is, the paper argues, dishonest and unworkable. It therefore proposes an answer: Scottish members should have no vote when it comes to deciding English issues at Westminster. "Let the English control their own affairs," said its banner headline. And its leader made it clear that "nothing else will do".

Both Tories and Scottish nationalists have expressed their delight at this solution. But the notion that Tony Blair will agree to gag his Scottish backbenchers, to say nothing of his Scottish-dominated Cabinet, is absurd. It would mean, for instance, that Gordon Brown, as Chancellor of the Exchequer, would be unable to vote on a Bill concerning hospital provision in the South East or investment on Merseyside. It is, in short, every bit as unworkable as the issue the paper claims to address.

What the new line does raise, however, is another question altogether: could *The Scotsman* find itself lobbying for a "no" vote in Labour's referendum on a Scottish parliament, thus incurring the wrath of its readers? After all, it could hardly endorse a constitutional scheme for the future government of Scotland which, by its own admission, was fatally flawed.

Blair is in tabloid heaven

PAPER ROUND

Brian MacArthur

It was an "historic" announcement, said *The Sun* as it declared its support yesterday for Tony Blair and New Labour — and the treatment of the story by other editors suggested that the claim was no exaggeration. It made the two main television news bulletins, *Newsnight* and the *Today* programme, and was reported on the front pages of *The Times*, *The Daily Telegraph*, *The Guardian*, *The Independent* and the *FT*.

With *The Mirror* also endorsing Blair — but now forced to declare itself as the paper for "Labour's TRUE supporters" — the electoral map of Britain's national newspapers has been decisively redrawn compared with 1992, when *The Sun* continually derided Neil Kinnock as a potential Prime Minister. If the *Daily Star* votes with its readers and eventually opts for Labour — and my bet is that it will — all three mass-market tabloids will be backing Blair.

The Sun has ten million readers a day, *The Mirror* has six and the *Daily Star* has two million. Even if the *Daily Mail* and *The Express* eventually endorse the Tories, Labour will be supported by three papers with a 3-1 majority of the 24 million tabloid readers.

Yet does the support of *The Sun* really matter to Tony Blair? Do newspapers really help to win elections? Since Blair and Alastair Campbell, his press secretary, have fought so hard to win *The Sun's* endorsement, one answer is that it obviously does matter to them — and they ought to know. Although it cannot be scientifically demonstrated, that is because journalists and politicians (especially) believe that what readers absorb from their papers day by day *must* have some effect, especially if it is relentlessly derogatory.

It can, however, be demonstrated that *The Sun's* hostility to Kinnock in 1992 may well have influenced its readers to vote Conservative in several crucial marginal seats (but see Simon Jenkins on page 18). MORI polled voters throughout the election and found a sharp swing to the Tories in the last four days as *The Sun*, *Mail* and *Express* launched a front-page blitz against Kinnock.

Among Labour's main target seats were Slough and Hayes, where *The Sun* is read in nearly one in two homes. Among *Sun readers*, the swing to the Tories was 4 per cent. Assuming that they were influenced by their paper, the *Sun* effect delivered 1,104 votes in Slough, where the Tory majority was 514, and 732 in Hayes, where the Tory majority was 514.

John Major can, nevertheless, be cheered that more than three million readers of *The Sun* voted Labour at the last election despite its vitriolic campaign against Kinnock, which suggests that what they read in their newspaper did not affect their vote.

Another achievement by Blair has been to persuade the editors of newspapers that have traditionally been Labour's enemies that he leads a party that at least has a claim to power. Even *The Daily Telegraph* said yesterday that Labour was no longer a disgrace or a joke. As the *Daily Mail* described the Tories as "jaded, fractured and rudderless", it added that Blair had rendered his party "electable with a vengeance".

> "Nor will there be any 'Nightmare on Blair Street' in *The Sun*, which could — just conceivably — tip over to Blair on election day."
>
> *Paper Round*
> September 25, 1996

ANTI-TORY VOTE

The percentage of Lib Dem or Labour readers, in 1992 and today

	'92	'97
The Sun	50	63
Daily Mail	33	45
The Times	35	54
Daily Star	66	67
FT	33	44
The Independent	71	84

Source: MORI

The result — with *The Sun* for Blair, the *Mail* impressed by Labour, and the *Express* group controlled by a Labour peer — is going to be much fairer coverage for Blair in the dreaded "Tory tabloids" than in any of the elections since 1979. Both the *Daily Mail* (with Europe as the clincher) and *The Express* are, nevertheless, expected to back the Conservatives — and *The Daily Telegraph* effectively declared itself for the Conservatives yesterday.

Several editors are keeping their options open and there may yet be more good news for Blair. At the past two elections *The Independent* has refused to endorse any party — but the Editor, Andrew Marr, may well find a formula for saying how the paper would use a vote if it had one — and the betting must be that it won't be Tory. *The Times* is also keeping an open mind and Peter Stothard, the Editor, hinted ten days ago at "the possibility (only the possibility)" that the paper might back Labour. *Will the News of the World* follow *The Sun*? Will the *FT*, which surprised its readers in 1992 by backing Kinnock? Yesterday it described the battle as "close run" but if it voted for Kinnock, surely it must vote for Blair.

With six weeks to go, the tantalising prospect for Blair is that he could win the support of seven of the ten national daily newspapers — compared with only three that backed Kinnock in 1992, undoubtedly Labour's best showing in Fleet Street at least since 1945. That won't win the election for Blair but it won't do his prospects any harm.

EXCLUSIVE OFFER AND COMPETITION THE TIMES

Win an elegant rattan suite worth £1,890

Times readers have the chance to win the Kiani rattan furniture suite pictured right which is manufactured in Indonesia. The suite, consisting of a two-seater sofa, two armchairs and a coffee table, and valued at £1,890, is called Sri-Kandi and is the latest design to be added to the Kiani rattan furniture range.

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Where is Kiani's furniture produced?
a) Indonesia b) Sri Lanka c) Thailand

The line is open until midnight tonight. Winners will be chosen at random from all correct entries. Normal TNL rules apply. 0839 calls cost 50p per minute. See tomorrow's *Times* for a home painting course prize.

FREE tickets for the BBC *Good Homes Show*

Plus a £10,000 Miele fitted kitchen to be won

The Times offers you a FREE ticket, worth at least £7.50, for the first ever BBC *Good Homes Show* at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham, from April 9-13. Collect three differently numbered tokens and send them, with a stamped sae marked on the front with which day you wish to attend and the application form which will appear again on Saturday. Your name will automatically be entered into a prize draw to win the Miele kitchen, right. You can see live performances of BBC shows in the Lloyds Bank Insurance Direct Celebrity Theatre. Call 0121 767 4000 to pre-book theatre and show admission tickets. For a Miele brochure call 01235 554488.

THE TIMES
THE BBC GOOD HOMES SHOW
TOKEN 3

CHANGING TIMES

THE TIMES TODAY

NEWS

Tories abandon school plans

■ Plans to allow greater selection and the expansion of grant-maintained schools were sacrificed by the Government in the rush to clear the legislative decks before Parliament rises on Friday for the general election.

On the second day of the election campaign, Conservative business managers were forced, during negotiations with their Labour counterparts, to drop 19 clauses from the education Bill, including plans which they said would pave the way for a grammar school in every large town.................... **Pages 1, 8, 9**

Ministers lose fast track to Lords

■ John Major is preparing to break with tradition by declining to give peerages to all the former senior ministers who are retiring. He believes peerages should go to senior figures likely to carry on working for the Conservative cause............ **Page 1**

Thatcher papers

Baroness Thatcher announced that she is giving her huge archive of papers on permanent loan to Churchill College, Cambridge, to allow scholars to study her premiership................ **Page 1**

Zaire threat

The prospects of a military coup in Zaire grew after the Parliament passed a vote of no confidence in the Prime Minister...................... **Pages 1, 15**

Cash for questions

The postponement of the publication of the Commons report into the cash for questions affair will be the subject of a new investigation by the Nolan committee on standards in public life.....**Page 2**

Surgeon shot dead

A British surgeon died in his wife's arms after being shot at a remote police checkpoint in the Congo when he argued with armed policemen..............**Page 3**

Cheaper discs

A price war has erupted between supermarkets which are offering big discounts on Top 40 compact discs in an effort to win the lucrative music market............ **Page 4**

Cricket strip

Members of the country's oldest first-class cricket club were surprised to find the nude figure of their beleaguered club secretary gracing the pages of *British Naturism* magazine.........**Page 5**

Birth alert

Women are being subjected to unnecessary Caesarean and forceps deliveries which cause them injury and waste resources, a health service watchdog says.................................. **Page 6**

Elvis victory

A former barrow boy won his High Court battle against America's Elvis Presley industry over the right to sell novelty soaps and trinkets to British fans......**Page 7**

BBC board attacked

The BBC's Board of Governors, a group of part-time, well-intentioned amateurs drawn from the great and the good, should be abolished, the Heritage Select Committee said ....**Page 10**

Albanian tension

The flood of Albanians fleeing across the Adriatic to southern Italy approached 10,000 with reports of growing tension between residents and immigrants**Page 12**

German uproar

The Ruhr was in uproar as Germany's snowballing protest movement switched its focus from the coal pits to the steel foundries ....**Page 13**

Clinton worry

President Clinton's controversial fundraising antics claimed a member of his inner circle when Anthony Lake withdrew his nomination as Director of the CIA..................................**Page 14**

Yes, we have five billion bananas

■ Bananas have replaced apples as Britain's most popular fresh fruit, with about five billion eaten every year. It is a far cry from the Second World War when Britons had to make do with a concoction of mashed parsnips flavoured with sugar and banana essence. The Government gave one to everyone under the age of 18 when the first postwar supplies arrived ... **Page 1**

ROBIN MAYES

Girls in past and present Putney High School uniforms at the Albert Hall for the 125th anniversary of the Girls' Public Day School Trust.

BUSINESS

Gas charge: BG may have to knock billions of pounds off the value of its assets following the completion of a Monopolies and Mergers Commission investigation.**Page 25**

VAT loophole: The Treasury is losing millions of pounds of VAT because HM Customs and Excise is not rigourous enough in its checks on large organisations, says a report by the National Audit Office .... **Page 26**

Borrowing on target: The Government is expected to beat its public sector borrowing target this year after new figures showed only a small rise in the PSBR.......**Page 25**

Markets: The FTSE 100 fell 16.5 to 4356.8. Sterling fell 0.4 to 95.7, falling from DM2.6817 to DM2.66643 and $1.5868 to $1.5876 .... **Page 28**

SPORT

Rugby union: John Richardson, the Rugby Football Union president, has denied claims by Fran Cotton, the Lions manager, that England and France seek to break away from the Five Nations....... **Page 44**

Football: Alex Ferguson, the Manchester United manager, is expecting a disciplined performance against FC Porto in the European Cup quarter-final .... **Page 48**

Golf: Nigel Mansell, the former Formula One world champion, made a successful start in the Sunningdale Foursomes, winning by 3 and 2........................ **Page 43**

Cricket: The Grand Hotel, Brighton, is the grandiose setting for what is expected to be a stormy annual meeting of Sussex County Cricket Club........................ **Page 48**

ARTS

Roll up, roll up: From Kathleen Turner treading the boards at Chichester to spectacular costumes at the Notting Hill Carnival: *The Times* offers a guide to the top summer festivals ....**Page 37**

Flower show: A new David Hockney exhibition opens with a theme that is exuberantly floral. "I chose it to cheer myself up," says the artist, 60 this year .... **Page 38**

Bombay mix: At the Barbican Zubin Mehta conducted music by Indian composers, with a Mahler symphony thrown in, to celebrate his country's 50 years of independence..................... **Page 38**

Revue reviewed: A production at the King's Head, Islington, trawls through three decades of satirical songs and sketches........... **Page 39**

FEATURES

Neck and neck: How unfortunate that the leaders of the two main parties should have plumped for such similar neck-wear ..... **Page 16**

Dress sense: "He's sort of medium, really." Buying clothes for a *man is so much more stressful than* shopping for a woman ...... **Page 16**

Bullied: Tania Clayton has just won £200,000 as compensation for five years of bullying. What made her put up with it?............ **Page 17**

MEDIA

Brainwashed: Why does the BBC fall for National Brainwashing Week, as National Science Week should be known, asks Brenda Maddox.......................... **Page 22**

Five life: Dawn Airey, the director of programmes for C5, tells of her diary on getting the channel on air by the end of the month ... **Page 23**

PROPERTY

House-proud: The main parties tell of their housing plans........ **Page 41**

THE PAPERS

Long delayed details of the Russian Government reshuffle suggest that President Yeltsin is serious about bringing in his A-team for economic reform. It could be the coalition that is needed to cut corruption and waste in the bureaucracy, the banking system, the monopolies and the social sector that is retarding growth — *Moscow Times*

TV LISTINGS

Preview: Cells taken from an American woman who died in 1951 raised hopes of a cure for cancer: *The Way of All Flesh* (BBC2, 9pm). **Review:** Matthew Bond on horrors of a media war .... **Page 47**

OPINION

Publish or be damned

If the electors of Tatton want to know whether or not their Member is a "liar and a cheat" before deciding to vote for him, they cannot, on past record, take Mr Al Fayed's word for it. They need Sir Gordon Downey's............................**Page 19**

Lake in the drink

The current charged environment in Washington certainly contributed to Mr Lake's downfall but did not exclusively create it......**Page 19**

Cultural campaigns

Depending on how the count is taken, there are now about 500 festivals during the British season ....**Page 19**

COLUMNS

SIMON JENKINS

In 1995 Tony Blair flew to see Rupert Murdoch to audition as Prime Minister. The great man approved. Blessing was conferred. New Labour, old Commonwealth ... **Page 18**

TIMOTHY GARTON ASH

A conference has been proposed but who would put their faith in the so-called "international community" and endless mediators and conferences? I left with a horrible feeling that here, too, the lines may be drawn first in blood...... **Page 18**

PETER RIDDELL

Mr Blair should be wary of courting support from those with whom he really disagrees. He could do with a few enemies as well as probably fairweather friends..... **Page 8**

SIMON BARNES

Nothing motivates as forcibly as a desire for revenge. Jeremy Guscott demonstrated as much with an outstanding display against Wales, having been omitted by the coach, for most of the season....... **Page 46**

OBITUARIES

Shireen Akbar, arts educator; **J.R.J. Cameron**, surgeon; **Robert Dicke**, physicist; **Brian Merrikin Hill**, poet............................ **Page 21**

LETTERS

Tax and spending; long-term residential care for the elderly; French policy in Africa .... **Page 19**

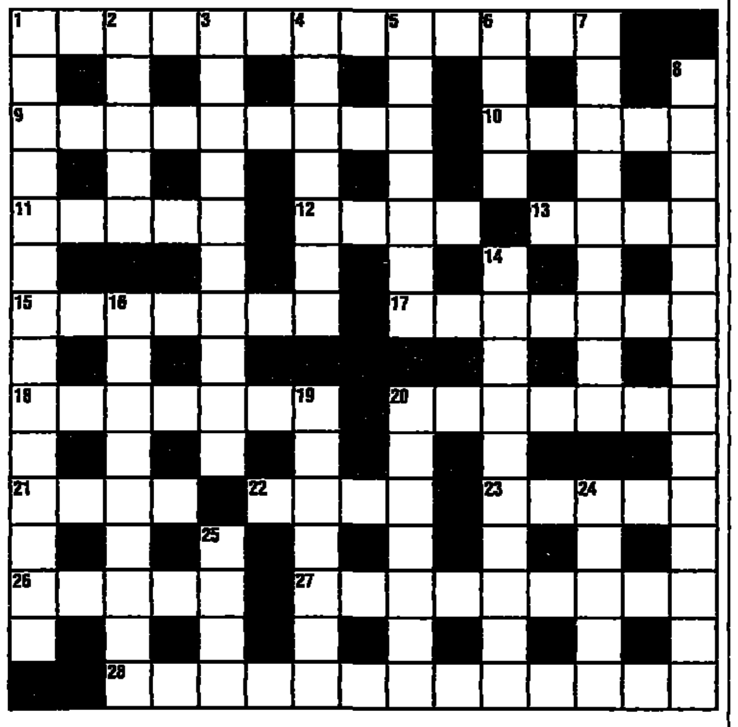
TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ ARTS
Geoff Brown on the old-style concern for morality of the new improved epic *Star Wars*

■ BOOKS
Sir Roger Bannister wonders why the all-rounder is such a rare sporting phenomenon

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,431



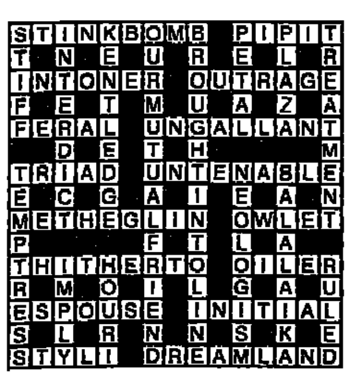
ACROSS

1 Lesser bat hanging in there at dusk (13).
9 Pegs on board disturb a listener (9).
10 Ridiculous prude is lost to view (5).
11 Earth's covering, mostly, old church article (5).
12 Brisk, steady pace of David Copperfield (4).
13 Elegant couturier's opening here in Rome (4).
15 A match for Venus? (7).
17 Port of New Orleans (7).
18 Fine fabric making much of light blue cape (7).
20 Chronicler, we hear, is one who may break down (7).
21 Joey, king of the castle (4).
22 Composer South Africans look up to (4).
23 Unimaginative new production of *Annie* (5).
26 Halter Lear's pig had? (5).
27 Difficult assignment, to make ring road higher all round (4,5).
28 Mammoth task to tame this insectivore? (8-5).

DOWN

1 Cause of Big Bang? Origin recently worked out (14).
2 Silly people, for example, holding view that's topsy-turvy (5).
3 One employed to maintain pitch for players (6-4).
4 Traveller going up to find a way over hill (7).
5 Copper's most unusual duty (7).
6 Poem about moon (4).
7 The wind up, or quite the opposite? (9).
8 Acting immediately, no longer living by the lottery (5,2,3,4).
14 Producing oil from lagoon, I use explosive (10).
16 Gold-lined sideboard for a naval officer (9).
19 Fast cat declared fraud (7).
20 African woman containing gaol-break (7).
24 Tree more exposed, losing top (5).
25 Pure water (4).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,430



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Times Two Crossword, page 48

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HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises: 6.06 am	Sun sets: 6.10 pm
Moon sets 3.53 am	Moon rises 1.39 pm

Full moon March 24

London 6.10 pm to 6.04 am
Bristol 6.20 pm to 6.13 am
Edinburgh 6.25 pm to 6.15 am
Manchester 6.21 pm to 6.12 am
Penzance 6.34 pm to 6.28 am

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING
Recycled paper made up 41.2% of the raw material for UK newspapers in the first half of 1996

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You insure most other important things in your life. Why not your health? WPA's range of good value, high service health schemes are all detailed on the Internet.
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FORECAST

☐ **General:** England and Wales will have bright or sunny spells and showers. Drier weather will spread from west but showers will linger in eastern parts. The fresh northwesterly wind will moderate slowly. Temperatures will be around seasonal normal.

Scotland and Northern Ireland will have showers, wintry in north. Temperatures mostly around normal.

☐ **London, SE England, E Anglia, E England, NE England:** sunny spells with showers, slow to clear. Wind northwesterly. Max 11C (52F)

☐ **Central S England, Midlands, Channel Isles, SW England, S Wales:** sunny spells with a few showers, dying out. Wind northwesterly moderate to fresh. Max 11C (52F).

☐ **N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, Cent N England, N Ireland:** sunny spells with a few showers, dying out but becoming cloudier later. Wind northwesterly moderate to fresh. Max 11C (52F)

☐ **Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Cent Highlands, Moray Firth, Argyll, NW Scotland:** sunny spells with a few showers, dying out, becoming cloudier from west later. Wind westerly moderate to fresh. Max 10C (50F).

☐ **NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland:** mostly cloudy with showers or longer spells of rain or sleet. Wind mainly northwesterly. Max 6-8C (43-46F)

☐ **Outlook:** showers clearing, further rain spreading into west later

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

24 hrs to 5 pm. b=bright, c=cloud, d=drizzle, ds=dust storm, du=dull, f=fair, fg=fog, g=gale, h=hail, r=rain, sh=shower, sl=sleet, sn=snow, s=sun, t=thunder

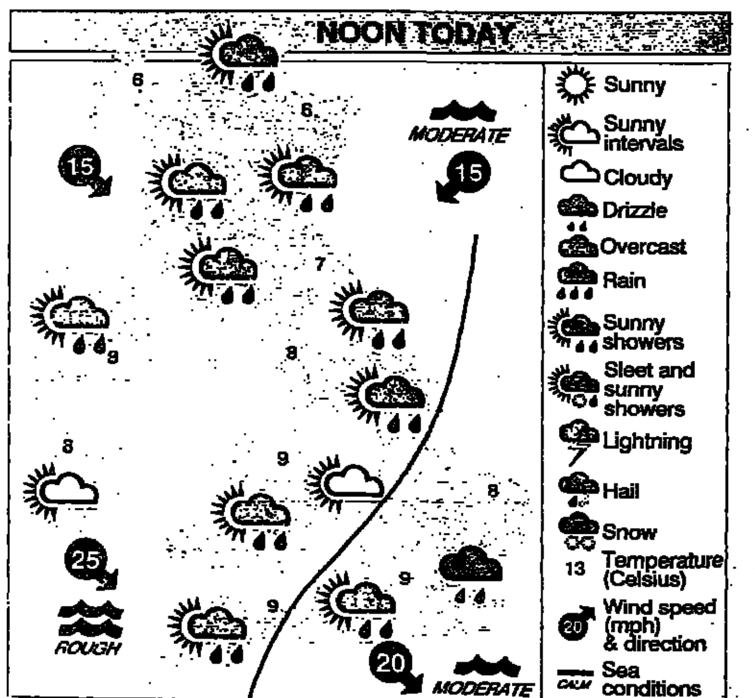
	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	5.9	0.01	13	55	s	Leeds	2.3	0.09	10	50	r
Anglesey	5.6	0.05	13	55	sh	Leuchars	5.8	0.02	11	52	sh
Aspatria	3.0	0.12	9	48	sh	Littlehmptn	1.8	0.01	12	54	s
Aviemore	7.6	0.06	10	50	sh	London	3.6	0.01	13	55	b
Belfast	0.4	0.02	9	48	sh	Lowestoft	1.4	0.07	10	50	h
Birmingham	5.5	0.10	13	55	h	Manchester	1.6	0.18	10	50	r
Bognor R	5.3	0.01	15	59	s	Margate	2.4	-	14	57	s
Bournem'th	5.2	0.02	14	57	s	Minehead	7.1	0.01	12	54	s
Bristol	6.6	0.02	12	54	sh	Morecambe	5.0	0.18	10	50	b
Buxton	2.6	0.27	8	46	r	Newcastle	5.3	0.03	11	52	r
Cardiff	6.2	0.04	11	52	s	Newquay	7.6		12	54	s
Clacton	1.5	0.06	11	52	sh	Norwich	1.2	0.09	10	50	r
Colwyn Bay	5.4	0.13	12	54	s	Orford	5.4	0.02	13	55	r
Cromer	2.5	0.03	10	50	r	Penzance	[illegible]	0.04	14	57	s
Eastbourne	3.3	0.01	13	55	d	Prestatyn	[illegible]	0.11	12	54	sh
Edinburgh	2.7	0.03	11	52	sh	Ross-o-wye	5.3	0.01	13	55	s
Eskdalemuir	2.2	0.32	9	48	sh	Salcombe	7.2	0.01	14	57	s
Exmouth	6.5	0.03	13	55	s	Sandown	1.3	0.01	13	55	s
Falmouth	7.2	0.02	12	54	s	Saunton Snd	6.2	0.02	10	50	s
Fishguard	9.3	0.02	15	59	s	Shrewsbury	2.5	0.04	11	52	sh
Folkestone	2.2	0.01	13	55	b	Skegness	1.4	0.09	11	52	sh
Glasgow	3.2	0.25	9	48	sh	Southport	1.6	0.09	10	50	b
Guernsey	6.2	0.01	13	55	s	Southsea	5.1		13	55	s
Hastings	2.3	0.02	12	54	d	Stornoway	1.1	0.13	9	48	sh
Hayling I.	4.7	0.01	13	55	r	Teignmouth	7.4	0.01	13	55	s
Herne Bay	2.4	-	13	55	s	Tenby	8.6	-	12	54	s
Hunstanton	[illegible]	-	10	50	s	Tiree	2.3	0.22	10	50	r
Isle of Man	3.3	0.03	11	52	sh	Torquay	6.6	0.04	15	59	s
Jersey	5.6	0.01	13	55	s	Ventnor	1.5	0.01	12	54	s
Kinloss	4.0	0.01	11	52	b	Weymouth	6.2	-	13	55	s

ABROAD

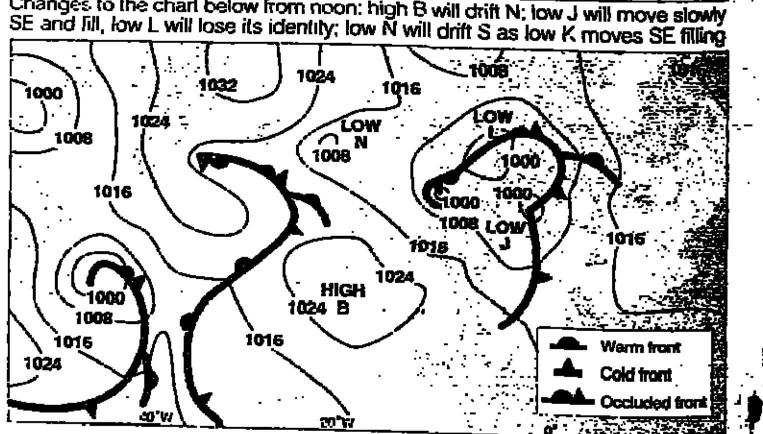
Ajaccio	18	64	s	Corfu	18	64	f	Majorca	19	66	s	Rome	17	63	f
Akrotiri	17	63	s	C'phagn	3	37	s	Malaga	19	66	s	S Frsco	14	57	s
Alex'dria	19	66	c	Dublin	10	50	s	Malta	18	64	s	S Paulo	22	72	c
Algiers	20	68	s	Dubrovnik	15	59	s	Melb'rne	17	63	s	Salzburg	10	50	c
Amst'dm	11	52	s	Faro	21	70	s	Mexico C	22	72	s	Santiago	18	64	f
Athens	19	66	f	Florence	17	63	f	Miami	26	79	s	Seoul	11	52	s
B Aires	21	70	s	Frankfurt	14	57	f	Milan	23	73	s	Sing'por	31	88	f
Bahrain	19	66	c	Funchal	18	64	s	Montreal	-4	25	sn	St Holm	0	32	s
Bangkok	33	91	f	Geneva	15	59	s	Moscow	-2	28	f	Strasb'rg	13	55	c
Barbados	28	82	f	Gibraltar	18	64	c	Munich	10	50	c	Sydney	21	70	f
Barcelona	19	66	s	Helsinki	-2	28	sn	N Delhi	26	79	s	Tangier	21	70	s
Beirut	17	63	s	Hong K	19	66	c	N York	6	43	s	Tel Aviv	17	63	c
Belgrade	3	37	f	Innsbrck	13	55	f	Nairobi	30	86	f	Tenerife	22	72	f
Berlin	3	37	f	Istanbul	9	48	f	Naples	19	66	s	Tokyo	12	54	[illegible]
Bermuda	15	59	f	Jeddah	24	75	s	Nice	16	61	s	Toronto	5	41	c
Biarritz	13	55	f	Jo'burg	22	72	f	Oslo	2	36	s	Tunis	20	68	f
Borde'x	20	68	s	L Angels	16	61	f	Paris	15	59	f	Valencia	23	73	s
Brussels	12	54	f	L Palmas	23	73	f	Peking	12	54	s	Vanc'ver	8	46	f
Budapest	1	34	sn	Le Touquet	9	48	f	Perth	26	79	s	Venice	16	61	s
Cairo	19	66	f	Lisbon	20	68	s	Prague	1	34	c	Vienna	1	34	c
Cape Tn	24	75	s	Locarno	24	75	s	Reykjavik	-1	30	f	Warsaw	-2	28	sn
Ch'church	18	64	s	Luxembg	11	52	c	Rhodes	18	64	s	Wash'ton	10	50	c
Chicago	11	52	f	Luxor	25	77	s	Rio de J	25	77	f	Wel'ngton	19	66	X
Cologne	12	54	c	Madeira	21	70	s	Riyadh	20	68	f	Zurich	14	57	s

Temperatures at midday local time on Monday. X - not available

NOON TODAY



Changes to the chart below from noon: high B will drift N; low J will move slowly SE and fill, low L will lose its identity; low N will drift S as low K moves SE filling



HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	10.33	6.0	23.06	6.0	Leith	11.42	4.5	-	-
Aberdeen	10.29	3.5	23.09	3.5	Liverpool	08.07	7.5	20.41	7.7
Avonmouth	03.35	9.9	16.13	10.3	Lowestoft	06.54	2.2	18.49	2.2
Belfast	07.42	3.1	20.30	2.9	Margate	08.57	3.9	21.17	3.9
Cardiff	03.14	9.3	15.59	9.7	Milford Haven	02.55	5.2	15.30	5.3
Devonport	02.00	4.3	14.50	4.4	Newquay	01.54	5.3	14.27	5.4
Dover	07.58	5.3	20.24	5.5	Oban	03.25	3.0	15.34	3.1
Dublin (N Wall)	08.37	3.6	21.12	3.5	Penzance	01.18	4.4	13.54	4.4
Falmouth	01.31	4.1	14.21	4.2	Portland	03.19	1.2	16.13	1.2
Greenock	09.01	2.7	22.18	2.6	Portsmouth	08.19	3.7	20.57	3.9
Harwich	08.37	3.1	21.03	3.1	Shoreham	07.57	4.7	20.37	5.0
Holyhead	07.31	4.6	20.06	4.6	Southampton	07.42	3.7	20.22	3.8
Hull (Albert D)	03.03	6.9	15.27	7.2	Swansea	02.41	7.4	15.18	7.5
Ilfracombe	02.34	7.0	15.12	7.1	Tees	00.15	4.2	12.39	4.3
King's Lynn	03.17	4.9	16.22	5.1	Walton-on-N	08.31	3.3	20.59	3.3

All times GMT. Heights in metres

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: **Highest day temp:** Poole, Dorset, 15C (59F); **lowest day max:** Balta Sound, Shetland Islands, 6C (43F); **highest rainfall:** Sella Ness, Shetland Islands, 0.98in; **highest sunshine:** Tenby, Pembrokeshire, 8.6hr

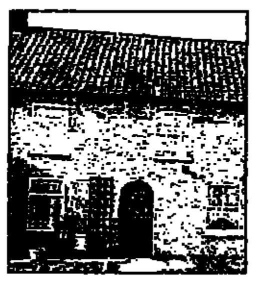
LineOne Never a dull moment LineOne

هكذا من الأصل

THE TIMES 2

INSIDE SECTION 2 TODAY

BUSINESS
Do the numbers add up in the jobless count?
PAGE 29



HOMES
The country cottage where John Major lived as a baby
PAGE 41

SPORT
Sweet revenge: the day Guscott broke loose
PAGES 43-48

TELEVISION AND RADIO
PAGES 46, 47

WEDNESDAY MARCH 19 1997

Sink in kitchen sales takes shine off Limelight shares

By Sarah Cunningham

LIMELIGHT, the kitchen company that came to the stock market in a controversial flotation last November, saw its shares plunge 25 per cent yesterday as it disclosed a dramatic fall in kitchen sales.

The shares, which had already fallen 17 per cent on Monday, ended the day down 35p at 107½p, against the flotation price of 175p.

Limelight said group sales in the first quarter of this year are down 11 per cent on a year earlier. The problems at Moben Kitchens were particularly bad, with sales down 32 per cent. In the same period last year, its sales rose 74 per cent.

Moben's weakness was partly offset by Kitchen Direct, whose sales rose 17 per cent. In 1995, Moben Kitchens and Kitchens Direct accounted for nearly 40 per cent of group sales. Their combined total this year is down 24 per cent.

Limelight's kitchen was twice criticised by the BBC's *Watchdog* programme in December, and the company is taking legal action. Ashley Lewis, finance director, agreed that the programmes could have affected sales. "There could be a link," he said.

Sales of Dolphin fitted bathrooms, which share the same showrooms as Moben and which accounted for 18 per cent of sales in 1995, were down 11 per cent on last year. Sharps bedrooms and Portland conservatories are the only divisions trading satisfactorily.

The company ran into controversy last year over the role of Stephen Boler, former chairman and the company's creator. He resigned the chair before flotation and became a non-executive director. He sold the bulk of his stake when the company came to the market, raising around £60 million to invest in an African safari park. He still holds 17 per cent. No new money was raised for Limelight in the float.

The company said yesterday that its forecast of operating profit before exceptional items of £16.5 million in the year to December 31 has been met. It will give more details with preliminary results on April 3.

Limelight may decide to bring its results announcement forward, but it is hampered by the absence of its chairman, Andrew Thomas, who is overseas. A spokesman noted that weakness in the fitted kitchen market had been highlighted by MFI. However, MFI recently reported like-for-like sales growth of more than 7 per cent.

Pennington, page 27

BG faces writedown of £5bn on assets

By Carl Mortished

BG, which owns the British Gas pipeline network, could be facing a £5 billion writedown of its assets.

Expectations that the *Monopolies and Mergers Commission* will adopt the Ofgas valuation of the Transco pipeline network mean that BG may be forced to consider whether there has been a permanent impairment of the economic value of Transco's assets.

Such a move could also have implications for the pipeline company's profits as accounting rules may not permit BG to cut its depreciation charge in line with the asset reduction.

The book value of the Transco assets is about £18 billion, recorded in BG's current cost accounts and filed at Companies House but Ofgas has adopted a regulatory asset value for Transco of about £12.5 billion. The difference is at the heart of the dispute between BG and its regulator.

City analysts have been probing BG's management to find out what the company will do to its balance sheet if the MMC adopts the Ofgas regulatory asset value. The company is believed to be in talks with Price Waterhouse, its auditors, over the dilemma.

The problem is compounded because BG works on current cost accounting rather than historic cost and, in a period of low inflation, there are few comparatives for dealing with the notion of permanent asset impairment. BG will have to decide whether the economic value of the assets has been impaired and whether the change is permanent.

Even more serious for BG is the possiblity that the company's reporting of profits may be affected by an asset writedown. Price Waterhouse is believed to have advised BG that it may not be able to reduce its depreciation charge in line with the reduction in asset value. Under current cost accounting, it is thought the depreciation charge must reflect the real cost of sustaining the asset base.

The cost of sustaining Transco's 2,500 kms of pipelines and other facilities are at the nub of the dispute between Ofgas and BG. By reducing the value of the asset base, the regulator has disallowed a large portion of the amount set aside by BG in its accounts for renewing the assets. In so doing, Ofgas arrives at a lower regulated income for BG in its pricing formula.

The asset writedown alone is unlikely to disturb City analysts. Ordinarily, such a move would be followed by a profit upturn. Concerns about regulatory risk and windfall taxes have lead the stock market to value BG at a big discount to even the Ofgas asset price of £12.5 billion.

The market value of BG is currently about £7.5 billion or almost £12 billion including its debts. Analysts attribute a value of some £4 billion to BG's upstream and international businesses, suggesting a market worth for Transco of only £7.5 billion, well adrift of the regulatory value.

However, suggestions that the depreciation charge against profits will not be reduced has serious implications for BG's dividend. The company has already indicated that it will distribute all of Transco's profits.

BG's managment have been battling on several fronts in their effort to win concessions from the regulator and now from the MMC. Alongside the question of asset valuation is operational cost. The City is expecting BG to win some extra income from the MMC, in the range of £100 million to £150 million in the form of an allowance for higher operating costs.

Tempus, page 28

TONY WHITE

Peter Kindersley, chairman and chief executive of Dorling Kindersley, which aims to sell more of its books through its door-to-door network

Borrowing within target and City expectations

By Janet Bush, economics editor

PUBLIC borrowing looks set to undershoot the Government's Budget forecast this year after another month of healthy tax receipts.

The public sector borrowing requirement totalled £3.6 billion in February, according to the Office for National Statistics. This was lower than the City had been expecting and left cumulative borrowing in the first 11 months of the current financial year at £14.1 billion, against £22.2 billion at the same stage last year.

Even excluding privatisation proceeds, there has been a substantial improvement on last year. Ex privatisation, the cumulative PSBR in the 11 months of the financial year so far was £18.3 billion, compared with £24.5 billion in the previous year.

Most economists are now predicting a substantial undershoot of November's official prediction of a £26.4 billion PSBR for the full year, perhaps in the order of £2 billion to £3 billion.

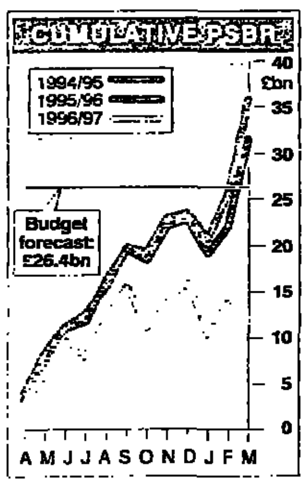
Martin Brookes, of Goldman Sachs, said yesterday that the buoyancy of tax receipts also augurs well for a continuing fall in the PSBR next year. He is predicting a PSBR in the 1997-98 financial year of £19 billion.

Central government cash receipts are up 7.4 per cent on the year, against the 5.7 per cent increase predicted in the Budget. All of the main revenue categories — income tax, corporation tax and VAT — are running above target.

However, Jonathan Loynes, of HSBC Markets, put yesterday's positive news into context, noting that, even if this year's PSBR were to total only £23 billion, this would still be almost twice as large as was envisaged by the Government only two years ago. "Hence we continue to believe that the next Government would be well advised to tighten fiscal policy at some point," he said. "As well as improving the public finances, this could help to ease the upward pressure on sterling by minimising the need for further rises in interest rates."

The pound struggled again yesterday, largely because of strength in the mark. Sterling's effective index against a basket of currencies dropped to 95.7 at the close, from 96.1 on Monday. By the close in London, it had lost 1.54 pfennigs to DM2.6667.

The mark has been boosted in recent days by increasing doubts about the single currency going ahead on schedule. Klaus-Dieter Kühbacher, a member of the Bundesbank's policy-making council, said yesterday that he doubted that Germany would meet the Maastricht convergence criteria and that delaying the start of monetary union was the only option if that were the case.



Dorling Kindersley hit by profit warning

DORLING KINDERSLEY, the publisher, saw £36 million wiped from its market value yesterday as a profits warning sent its shares down 16 per cent (Fraser Nelson writes).

The company said its US business had been hit by book superstores cutting stocks by ordering only four weeks in advance, instead of 12.

The company aims to recover by selling more titles through its own door-to-door network, but it said the switch will hit this year's profits.

Pre-tax profits in the six months to December 31 were £6.78 million (£6.23 million), and earnings per share were 5.9p (5.1p). An interim dividend of 1.5p is due on May 23.

The shares closed at a three-year low of 270p yesterday.

Investors urged to sack poor board performers

By Philip Bassett, industrial editor

SHAREHOLDERS should try to sack company bosses who do not merit their pay, directors' leaders say today.

The advice by the Institute of Directors that poorly performing company directors should be fired is the furthest that a leading business organisation has gone in putting forward proposals to reform boardroom pay.

The IoD, whose Director-General, Tim Melville-Ross, was a member of the Greenbury inquiry into directors' pay, today publishes a research paper on directors' remuneration, making clear that business still has a number of concerns about the issue.

The institute says it is for shareholders, and especially institutional shareholders, to bring pressure to bear on the remuneration committees of companies if they disgaree with their recommendations. The IoD says: "Specifically, shareholders should oppose the re-election of directors who do not, in their view, merit their remuneration." The institute also urges directors to offer themselves for re-election on a regular basis, perhaps every three years.

The research paper highlights the institute's concern about so-called "remuneration ratcheting" — pay being constantly moved up by means of the "macho culture of trying to ensure that a company's directors are in the upper quartile of pay". Attacking this as "indefensible behaviour", IoD leaders say it "brings discredit on business", and urge company remuneration committees to reject it.

Business organisations, including the IoD, have long urged companies to link pay directly to performance, including pay at boardroom level. While the institute is still advocating this, it says it is "disappointing" to note that most empirical evidence so far suggests there is only a "weak link" between pay and performance.

Barclays seeks approval for lucrative incentives

By Robert Miller, banking correspondent

BARCLAYS is to seek shareholder approval next month to give 60 "key" executives at BZW, its investment banking arm, lucrative new compensation packages to reward superior performance.

The radical US-style pay proposal in the Barclays annual report, published yesterday, relates to a BZW long-term incentive plan for 60 directors and executives of the investment banking division. If shareholders approve the plan at the annual meeting on April 22, the bank will pay generous bonuses linked to the performance of BZW and the Barclays share price.

To qualify for the incentive plan the BZW executives will have to wait three years to receive their payouts, which will be in Barclays shares, not cash.

Barclays, which last month unveiled a 13 per cent rise in annual pre-tax annual profits to £2.4 billion, said in its annual report that the total value of 18 directors' payments had almost doubled to £5.6 million from £3.2 million the previous year.

The largest sum was paid to Bill Harrison, chief executive of BZW, who joined last September and who earned a one-off £2.9 million as the price of luring him from Robert Fleming. Martin Taylor, chief executive of Barclays, saw his total 1996 package rise to £820,000 from £685,000. Andrew Buxton, chairman, received a £24,000 pay rise to £506,000. Lord Lawson of Blaby received £31,000 in his role as non-executive director.

Mr Taylor has already stated that he has enough confidence in the bank's risk system for BZW — which contributed £204 million to profits last year, against £280 million previously — for the investment bank to take on more. His view is that "high risk is not necessarily bad risk".

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	4356.8	(-16.5)
Yield	3.70%	
FTSE All share	2125.56	(-9.46)
Nikkei	18445.20	(+391.70)
New York:		
Dow Jones	6940.00	(-15.48)*
S&P Composite	792.70	(-3.01)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	5[illegible]%*	(5[illegible]%)
Long Bond	96[illegible]*	(95[illegible])
Yield	6.96%*	(6.96%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth Interbank	6[illegible]%	(6[illegible]%)
Liffe long gilt future (Jun)	110[illegible]	(110[illegible])

STERLING

New York:		
$	1.5895*	(1.5885)
London:		
$	1.5890	(1.5873)
DM	2.6667	(2.6821)
FFr	8.9997	(9.0494)
SFr	2.2892	(2.3147)
Yen	194.82	(196.32)
£ Index	95.7	(96.1)

DOLLAR

London:		
DM	1.6730*	(1.6920)
FFr	5.6465*	(5.7060)
SFr	1.4395*	(1.4605)
Yen	122.47*	(123.79)
$ Index	104.0	(104.5)

Tokyo close Yen 123.14

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Jun)	$19.80	($19.45)

GOLD

London close	$346.85	($349.55)

* denotes midday trading price

VAT concern

A National Audit Office (NAO) report today reveals weaknesses in value-added tax collection from large organisations that could be losing the Treasury millions each year and called for greater scrutiny.
Page 26

Acquisitive

Charter Group, the conglomerate, said it was considering further acquisitions but declined to comment on market speculation it was sizing up Howden, the industrial fanmaker.
Page 27; Tempus Page 28

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For the life you don't yet know

ALLIED DUNBAR

Hoskyns attack on EMU 'folly'

By Sarah Cunningham

SIR JOHN HOSKYNS, chairman of Burton Group, launched an attack yesterday on the single currency project which he said will cost business millions of pounds, whether or not Britain joins.

Speaking at the *Retail Week* and British Retail Consortium *annual* conference in London, he said: "That effort and expenditure will be at worst premature, at best — for this is my hope — *wasted* altogether. But one way or another, it will have to be spent and spent early."

Sir John is the latest in a series of businessmen to enter the debate on whether Britain should join a single currency. Niall Fitzgerald, chairman of Unilever, and Chris Haskins, chairman of Northern Foods, are among those who have urged early entry.

However, Sir John, head of the Prime Minister's policy unit in 1979-82, said supporters of monetary union are pursuing the creation of a single European federal state. "The eventual aim is to turn it into a new superpower to rival the United States, Japan and the new economies of the Far East."

The contribution to the debate from big business has been disappointing, he said. "Big business seems *to have accepted, uncritically*, the idea that EMU is a low-cost, low-risk device which will remove exchange rate risks inside *Europe without any damaging* side effects. That is a naive view."

Sir John added: "I think the single currency will happen in *some form, but* I hope I am wrong. The best we can hope for is a small core ... Whatever the final outcome, we can be pretty sure that the dream of the larger project will not be abandoned until it has done as much damage as it can do, to the greatest number of people ... I hope and pray that we stay out of this folly."

Audit office fears weakness in VAT system costs millions

By Adam Jones

A NATIONAL Audit Office (NAO) report today reveals weaknesses in VAT collection from large organisations that could be losing the Treasury millions each year.

Although the report was largely complimentary about Customs and Excise, which collects VAT, the NAO said that dozens of big organisations may not have been *checked rigorously enough*.

Its report focused on large traders, bodies that pay an unusually large amount of VAT, or are judged to have particularly complex accounts.

They are seen as a riskier source of revenue and, as value-added tax is a self-assessed tax, the liabilities they calculate are checked more closely than usual.

In 1996 Customs and Excise identified 1,500 large traders that contributed £11.4 billion, or 34 per cent of the total net VAT collected in the UK.

The extra checks carried out by Customs and Excise revealed £300 million in additional monies owing. The amount varies enormously from case to case, but the average additional VAT charge resulting from large trader checks is about £200,000.

However, in a sample of 652 traders with more than £50 million of VAT flowing through each of them a year, the NAO said that 40 should have been subject to the tougher checking regime but were not classified as large traders. It added that they may have received inadequate scrutiny.

The report said: "A number of initiatives are in development which will further improve the department's arrangements for large traders. Nevertheless, there are *some ways in which these* arrangements could be made more efficient and effective."

Customs and Excise is to conduct a "comprehensive" review of the 40 traders as part of a wider package of tweakings. It is also looking at differences in the way that local offices approach large trader checks.

The NAO report showed large variations in the amount of resources used to carry out the audits. Collectors in north-west England put proportionately more resources into an average large-trader check than almost any other region.

In the North West, the monitoring of a typical local authority, a significant class of large trader, used almost four times as many resources as the same procedure in south-east England.

A Customs and Excise spokeswoman said: "We are undertaking a review of methods that are being used by local offices."

Wolseley wary on housing markets

By Sarah Cunningham

WOLSELEY, the builder's merchant, yesterday sounded a cautious note about the UK housing market, which it says remains fragile, and about the US housing market, which it expects to slow down in the next six months.

The company also noted that the strength of sterling is likely to cost it around £4 million in the second half.

The group made a pre-tax profit of £124.3 million in the six months to January 31, up *from £111 million a year ago*.

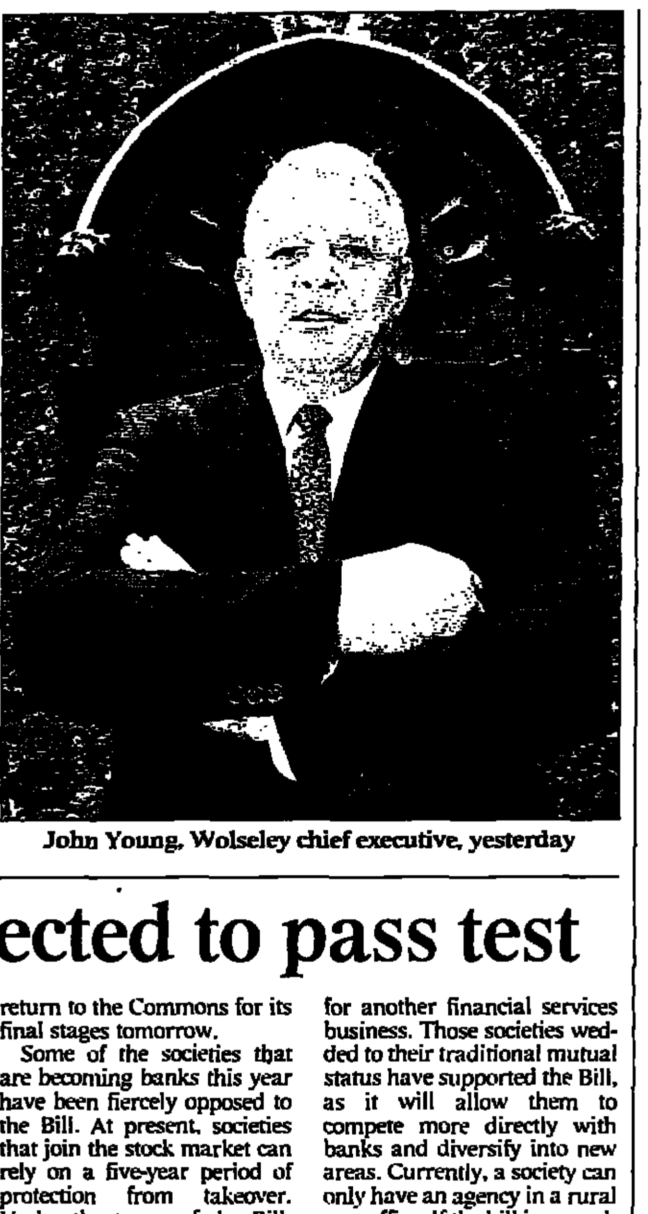
First-half earnings were boosted by buoyant business conditions in the US, but the Austrian and French markets *remained weak, and progress* in the manufacturing division was hit by sterling's strength.

Richard Ireland, chairman, said that housing starts have *slowed in the US recently*. "It is likely that the rate of growth will slow during the second half, since our companies experienced an upturn in the equivalent period last year," he said.

Wolseley will pay an interim dividend of 3.3p (3.1p) on July 31.

The company says that the UK housing market is reasonably buoyant in the South East, but patchy elsewhere, and the effects of a rise in housing starts are not likely to *be felt until later in the year*.

"Consumers may be reluctant to increase expenditure to any great extent until after the election," the company said, *adding: "Whilst the margin* trends are improving, compared with the second half of last year, there are still substantial *pressures throughout the supply chain*."



John Young, Wolseley chief executive, yesterday

SIB delays disciplinary shake-up

By Robert Miller

PLANS to pin responsibility for "catastrophic" financial or supervisory failures on senior executive officers have been put "on hold" on the orders of the Securities and Investments Board (SIB), the chief City watchdog.

The Securities and Futures Authority (SFA), regulator for brokers and futures dealers, had planned to publish details of its consultation exercise on how the watchdog proposed to switch the burden of proof in *disciplinary cases. But yesterday* the SFA said that its proposed refinements would not be issued until "we know that our proposals are in line *with the SIB's standards*."

The SFA sought to beef-up its rules in pinning responsibility on senior managers in the wake on the Barings crash. It was stung by criticism that it was unable to discipline Peter Baring and Andrew Tuckey, previously chairman and deputy chairman of the bank. The watchdog decided that in future senior managers would have to demonstrate that they had not been negligent rather the watchdog proving the case.

The SFA said that despite the delay it "will continue to stress the responsibility of senior management for the control and compliance environment of their firms".

Pennington, page 27

Societies Bill expected to pass test

By Anne Ashworth

THE Building Societies Bill, which gives wider powers to the building societies, will go to the Lords today after an unopposed second reading in the Commons yesterday.

Some peers object to the haste with which the Bill is being rushed though Parliament in the dying days of the Government. They argue that this speed leaves too little time for debate.

However, Treasury sources now expect no obstacles to the Bill passing into law, as it has the support of Labour and, in particular, the support of Mike O'Brien, the Shadow Economic Secretary.

If all goes according to plan in the Lords, the Bill should return to the Commons for its final stages tomorrow.

Some of the societies that are becoming banks this year have been fiercely opposed to the Bill. At present, societies that join the stock market can rely on a five-year period of protection from takeover. Under the terms of the Bill, this protective shield will be lost if the society makes a bid for another financial services business. Those societies wedded to their traditional mutual status have supported the Bill, as it will allow them to compete more directly with banks and diversify into new areas. Currently, a society can only have an agency in a rural post office. If the bill is passed, the society will be able to operate the post office.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Delta sets sights on finding new markets

DELTA, the cables company, said yesterday that although its restructuring *plans are progressing* it would be concentrating on developing new markets, especially in Asia and Eastern Europe. With low gearing of 22 per cent it was well positioned to drive growth through acquisitions and organically, Jon Scott-Maxwell, the new chief executive, said.

Mr Scott-Maxwell's comments came as *Delta revealed a 14* per cent fall in full-year pre-tax profits to £45.6 million. Turnover fell 7 per cent to £950 million. The total dividend is unchanged at 18.9p a share (14.4p final). Delta took an *exceptional* charge of £5 million to cover the rationalisation of its plumbing and circuit protection businesses, and a further charge of £6.6 million to cover the cost of loss on disposals.

BSG to sell dealership

BSG INTERNATIONAL, the car parts manufacturer and car dealership, is to separate its two core businesses by selling Bristol Street Companies, the car dealership, to a management buy-out team for £72 *million*. BSG will buy 20 per cent of the new equity in the buy-out company for £6 million. BSG, which will change its name to Britax International in May, reported pre-tax profits for 1996 of £9.28 million, down from £24.05 million a year earlier. A final dividend of 2.75p (2.5p), payable on *July 1*, will *give a total of 3.52p (3.2p)*.

Meggitt back in black

MEGGITT, *the engineering and aerospace* group, returned to profit in 1996 after a major restructuring last year. Pre-tax profits were £24.3 million, compared with a loss of £21.5 million in 1995, when the group closed two business units and sold 12. Earnings per share were 7.3p in 1996, against a loss of 13.4p in 1995. *The final dividend* rises to 2.85p, from 2.63p, making 4.2p (3.93p). At the year end, order intake was 8 per cent up on the previous year. The order book for delivery in 1997 was 17 per cent higher than at the same time last year.

Wagon shares slide

SHARES in Wagon Industrial fell 20½p to 286p yesterday as the engineering group announced a dividend cut and a £35 million *bill to cover the cost of restructuring*. Underlying profits for the year to March 1997 are expected to fall to about £20 million (£27 million). Wagon intends to pay a final dividend of 5p to make a total of 12p, a reduction from 19.8p. The shake-up at Wagon follows the appointment of David Kendall as chairman at the *start* of the year. The company said it intended to focus on engineering businesses with good growth prospects.

Heal's to raise £14.3m

HEAL'S, the furniture retailer, will have a market capitalisation of £21.3 million when it is floated on the stock market next week. The company is to raise £14.3 million from a placing of 6.73 million existing and 1.43 million new shares at 175p each. Dealings will begin on March 24. The flotation will provide £1.8 million for the company, while five directors will share £2.3 million. NatWest Ventures, which backed the 1990 management buyout, will claim the rest with the disposal of its entire shareholding. **Tempus, page 28**

Watmoughs disappoints

WATMOUGHS, the printing company, announced disappointing results yesterday, saying conditions in the print media sector remain difficult after paper price increases. Pretax profits fell to £22.2 million, from £23.7 million in 1996. Earnings per share fell to 21.7p a share, from 23.8p. The total dividend is raised from 9.5p to 10.45p, with a final of 7.7p. Patrick Walker, the chairman, said: "The market for paper is much more stable and there is evidence of new launches and greater buoyancy from publishers." **Tempus, 28**

Card Clear expands

CARD CLEAR, the credit card verification group, is to expand into America with the $10.5 million acquisition of a similar company there. Transaction Billing Resources (TBR), based in New Jersey, runs a "hot card" database used by payphone operators who check credit card transactions before connecting the call. TBR processes about 700,000 transactions a month and last year made profits of $500,000 on sales of $3 million. Shares of Card Clear rose 2p yesterday to a high of 47p on the Alternative Investment *Market*.

Irish Nationwide up

THE Irish Nationwide Building Society lifted annual pretax profits to just over Ir£24 million from Ir£22 million in 1995. The record growth in lending to Ir£240 million reflects the continuing buoyancy of the Irish housing market. The society reported a 14 per cent increase in total assets to more than Ir£1 billion, with a 12 per cent increase on reserves to Ir£133 million. The society's cost to income ratio dropped last year to 32 per cent, from 34 per cent in the previous year.

Banks agree code on 'rescue culture'

By Robert Miller, banking correspondent

MORE than three million small businesses, sole traders and partnerships are to be protected by a new binding code of conduct unveiled by the high street clearing banks.

The British Bankers' Association (BBA) yesterday announced that its members, including NatWest, Barclays, Lloyds TSB, Midland and *Royal Bank of Scotland*, have agreed to a 12-point code, which comes into force on July 1 and is designed to cover how banks work with smaller businesses *in difficulties*.

Those who come under the protection of the voluntary plan will have an annual turnover lower than £1 million, which covers 96 per cent of the 3.6 million registered companies and partnerships, and they are also eligible to take any complains to the Banking Ombudsman.

Mike Young, the BBA executive responsible for the code, said: "This a further step in the development of the rescue culture."

From July the banks have promised to emphasise the need for both sides "to get the relationship right from the start: the benefits of taking early independent advice and taking action when things go wrong".

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $ ..	2.11	1.95
Austria Sch ..	19.86	18.36
Belgium Fr .	58.27	53.97
Canada $	2.287	2.127
Cyprus Cyp£ .	0.837	0.782
Denmark Kr	10.81	10.01
Finland Mkk ..	8.65	8.00
France Fr ..	9.45	8.80
Germany Dm .	2.84	2.63
Greece Dr ...	441	415
Hong Kong $	12.96	11.96
Iceland	120	100
Ireland Pt .. .	1.07	0.99
Israel Shk	5.85	5.00
Italy Lira	2820	2645
Japan Yen	209.70	193.70
Malta	0.648	0.593
Netherlds Gld	3.168	2.938
New Zealand $	2.44	2.22
Norway Kr	11.41	10.61
Portugal Esc ..	*281.00*	*262.50*
S Africa Rd	7.62	6.82
Spain Pta	239.00	222.00
Sweden Kr ..	12.91	12.11
Switzerland Fr	2.44	2.26
Turkey Lira	209600	195600
USA $	1.683	1.559

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

BRISTOL & WEST

NOTICE OF MEETING

Notice is hereby given that a Special General Meeting of The Bristol and West Building Society (the 'Society') will be held at 11.00 a.m. on 15 April 1997 at the Westex Conference Pavilion of the Royal Bath & West of England Society Showground, Shepton Mallet, Somerset BA4 6QN for the following purposes: To consider and, if thought fit, to pass the following resolution which will be proposed as a *Special Resolution:*

INVESTORS' RESOLUTION

1 That:
(A) the transfer of the whole of the Society's business to Reading Mortgages plc (to be renamed Bristol & West plc); and
(B) the terms of such transfer set out in and pursuant to the Transfer Agreement dated 26 February 1997 made between the Society, The Governor and Company of the Bank of Ireland and Reading Mortgages plc, as such terms and/or Agreement may for the time being and from time to time be amended:
(i) to the extent that any such amendments are not material, by agreement between the Society, The Governor and Company of the Bank of Ireland and Reading Mortgages plc; or
(ii) at the direction of the Building Societies Commission pursuant to section 98(5) and (6) of the Building Societies Act 1986,
be and are hereby approved.

To consider and, if thought fit, to pass the following resolution which will be proposed as a Borrowing Members' Resolution:

BORROWERS' RESOLUTION

2 That:
(A) the transfer of the whole of the Society's business to Reading Mortgages plc (to be renamed Bristol & West plc); and
(B) the terms of such transfer set out in and pursuant to the Transfer Agreement dated 26 February 1997 made between the Society, The Governor and Company of the Bank of Ireland and Reading Mortgages plc, as such terms and/or Agreement may for the time being and from time to time be amended:
(i) to the extent that any such amendments are not material, by agreement between the Society, The Governor and Company of the Bank of Ireland and Reading Mortgages plc; or
(ii) at the direction of the Building Societies Commission pursuant to section 98(5) and (6) of the Building Societies Act 1986,
be and are hereby approved.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD
M Anthony Langdon
The Secretary

Members of the Society may obtain copies of the Transfer Document which contains the Resolutions and statements relating thereto and proxy voting forms from the Society's Information Office, PO Box 27, Broad Quay, Bristol BS99 7AX, Freephone 0800 886633.

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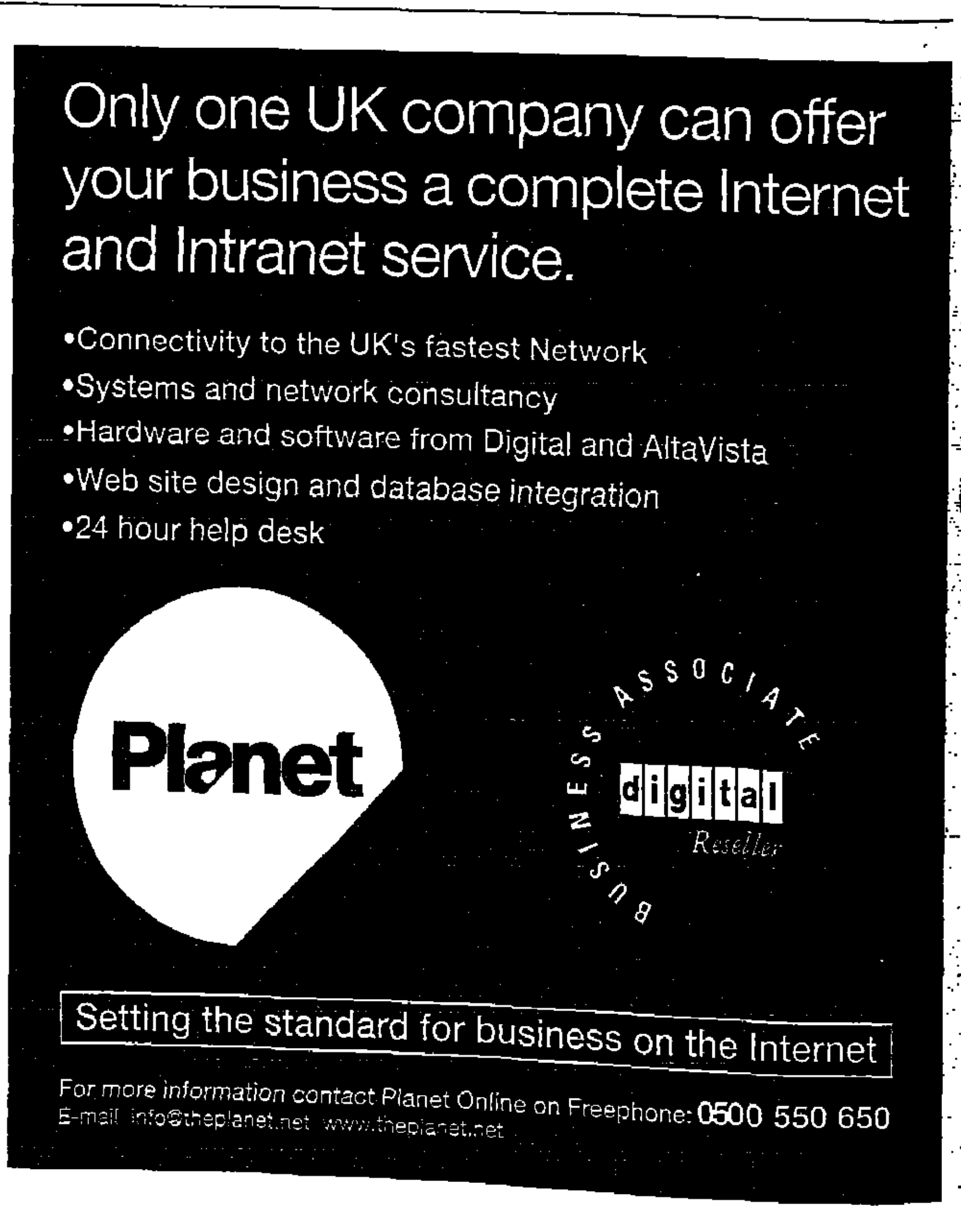

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☐ Societies do well by doing good ☐ A minor victory for United Biscuits ☐ SFA makes a late leap for the bandwagon

A virtue out of necessity

☐ "ONE-OFF, unrepeatable offer! Regular customers, just get to your local branch of J Sainsbury or Asda this weekend and load your trolley up with cash! No catches, no hidden extras! This offer not available at branches of Tesco or Safeway."

Too good to be true, alas. Instead we have had to rely on our local building societies to outdo each other in displays of generosity to members of the public prepared to stick with them. Windfalls from the Halifax and the Woolwich in return for the freedom to convert to public status are one thing. This week two of that dwindling band with no ambitions to become banks or financial supermarkets are also claiming to be handing back £100 million to customers.

But the sweeteners on offer from the Yorkshire on Monday and the Bradford & Bingley today are an inspired example of making a virtue out of a necessity. For example, these and Nationwide's £200 million per year "customer benefits initiative", about half of profits, can be seen as the cost of dividends societies would have had to pay to *shareholders, if they had* any as public companies. Instead the money is paid to their effective shareholders, that is, members, as higher interest to lenders and lower mortage rates.

This allows non-converting societies to operate with a built-in pricing advantage. The supermarkets have loyalty cards, effectively delayed discounts of 1 per cent or so. That £200 million, or £45 million in the case of the Yorkshire and whatever from the B&B, means a mutual can on average cut mortgage rates by 0.35 per cent and raise the amount paid to lenders by the same degree, and still match the retained profits pulled in by one of the new banks.

Given this in-built advantage, customers should gradually migrate from the converters offering worse rates to the remaining mutuals. They should grow their 20 per cent share of the mortgage market at the expense of those newly converted banks with stock market quotes to service.

Except that this would suggest that the good guys might finish first, and that can never happen, can it? So what can go wrong?

Customer inertia might prove so overpowering that the converters can continue to charge what they like. The latter's new shareholders might insist on action before market share is eroded, by cutting costs, closing branches and behaving like any other bank, so allowing margins to begin to compete with the offers from the mutuals.

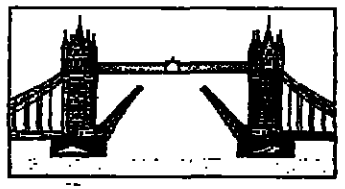
Many of the 60 or so mutuals expected to survive might grow so lazy and so inept from their protected status, like lions at the zoo whose hunting instincts have become atrophied, that they can no longer be bothered to seek out market share.

They might turn out to be the Co-op rather than John Lewis, and scant competition for Sainsbury. A few years of managed decline, and a quiet implosion — and all we are left with is the big supermarkets and banks.

P-p-pass off a Penguin

☐ YES, yes, the big four supermarkets did change most of our lives for the better in the 1970s and 1980s. Now they control more than half of all food sales and are becoming as bad a bunch of overmighty subjects as top trade unions were before. And look what happened to them.

PENNINGTON



Hard-pressed United Biscuits has won a minor victory against Asda. Archie Norman, Asda's self-promoting boss, developed a brand-beating Puffin chocolate biscuit with strangely similar packaging to UB's Penguin. UB has won an injunction against the passing off, although nothing will happen pending appeal. UB's counsel noted drily: "There is no inherent connection between maritime birds and chocolate biscuits."

Asda said this was just a bit of fun and UB a humourless spoilsport. But nothing could be more deadly than the blatant use of monopoly power to override intellectual property rights. This lesson is one of the first that Western countries try to inculcate in former communist states.

Few manufacturers can afford to stand up in court to the big four, who can wipe their products from the shelves.

Coca-Cola challenged Sainsbury more than two years ago. The grocer finally changed its own-label cola can. The dispute spawned a code of conduct agreed between manufacturers and retailers requiring the latter to "avoid commercial plagiarism in packaging and trade dress".

This code appears to carry about as much authority as as the unions' social compact with Lord Callaghan, which ended up with the winter of discontent. Kellogg's complained bitterly over Tesco's lookalike own-label cornflake packets.

Unilever, which spent millions developing and protecting the daftly named "I can't believe it's not butter", was not pleased by Asda's "You'd better believe it" spread. Grand Metropolitan, which spent much brainpower developing a new market with its Malibu coconut liqueur, nearly choked on Asda's Windward.

Eighteen years after the winter of discontent, Labour abhors strikes. But the Tory candidate for Tunbridge Wells (not Taiwan) seems to think property is there for the taking, or at least for the passing off.

One watchdog not having its day

☐ WHEN a rogue trader runs amok, senior management should be brought to book by the relevant civil watchdog — if the latter is allowed to act unhindered. When the Securities and Futures Authority said it could not proceed against Peter Baring and Andrew Tuckey over management failures at Barings, there was almost universal condemnation and the so-called "Tuckey gap" was born.

So the SFA tried to address this by putting the burden of proof on senior managers to demonstrate why they should *not* be held responsible for the failings of juniors. The approach had already worked well for another regulator, Imro, in the Jardine Fleming case. At Morgan Grenfell even the threat of Imro action over Peter Young was enough for seven managers and supervisors, and some very senior ones at that, to leave the firm.

But the decision by the Securities and Investments Board, yet another of this teeming band of regulators, to intervene in the debate looks suspiciously like a late bid to jump on the bandwagon. The SFA desperately needs to strengthen its rules, in particular to deal with the NatWest Markets incident. A delay for the chief watchdog to publish its mere thoughts on the matter, not even detailed rules, note, is helpful to nobody.

Our back pages

☐ "WHAT is clear is that Mr Boler has become exceedingly wealthy while those who enter into deals with him tend to lose out," this column wrote on November 15, as Stephen Boler brought his Limelight Group to the stock market and pocketed £60 million. "As he is selling shares, do you want to be buying them?" And oh, how the company complained. Investors who paid 175p for shares now worth 107½p might ponder which of us was right. And NM Rothschild and Cazenove, respectively banker and broker, after one of the shortest gaps between prospectus and profits warning in corporate history might wonder how much longer they need decently stick around.

Charter silent as talk turns to Howden

By Carl Mortished

CHARTER GROUP, the conglomerate that owns Esab, the Swedish welding equipment business, is considering acquisitions but is refusing to comment on speculation that it is sizing up Howden, the industrial fanmaker.

Profits at Charter fell from £103 million to £47 million owing to the exceptional loss on the sale of its 65 per cent stake in Cape, the building products group — after the write-back of goodwill previously written off the balance sheet. Operating profit from continuing businesses rose from £89 million to £92 million, with an 8 per cent gain in profits from Charter's rail track equipment business.

Charter is seeking to add a third division and could spend between £250 million and £500 million on acquiring a new business. Speculation that a bidder is pursuing Howden, capitalised at almost £280 million, centred on Charter but the company would not be drawn. At the year end, after the Cape disposal, Charter had no debt and cash resources of £35 million.

Esab made profits of £77 million, up 4 per cent, and maintained its margin at 10.5 per cent despite the effect on exports of a strengthening Swedish currency. Demand in southern Europe and the UK was buoyant but sales were disappointing in Germany and France. Esab has closed its welding consumables factory in Germany. In September, the company announced a joint venture in Brazil between Esab and that country's leading welding consumables producer. Charter is raising the dividend 7 per cent, to 29.5p per share, after earnings of 70.9p, up 5 per cent.

Good sales of a new clip for fastening rails to sleepers helped the rail track equipment business to raise profits 8 per cent last year. The device reduces sleeper installation cost and is aimed at railroad customers seeking to reduce manning. The company makes only 3 per cent of its revenues in the UK but has a contract from Railtrack for seven new Stoneblowers.

Tempus, page 28

Britannic Assurance plans Peps

By Gavin Lumsden

BRITANNIC Assurance, the door-to-door life and pensions office, plans to diversify into lending and unit trust Peps.

Brian Shaw, chief executive, said that offering Peps would increase Britannic's presence among wealthier savers, and developing a credit business would benefit the bulk of its existing 1.2 million policyholders, who needed another source of borrowing because many had no bank account.

Britannic had a setback in its move into home insurance, in which policyholders fell slightly, to 170,000, last year.

Overall, new regular premiums rose by 7.7 per cent, to £37.1 million, and new single premiums increased by 16.8 per cent, to £137 million.

Operating profit before tax rose 66 per cent, to £84.2 million, aided by a £23.2 million transfer after a settlement with the Government on "orphan assets". As part of this, the company is paying a 23p final dividend, making 28p.

CRT pays £23.8m for rival

By Fraser Nelson

CRT, the training and recruitment company, has become the lead player in computer staff contracting after buying IKPG, its rival, for £23.8 million. The deal was the first fruit of the £100 million cash injection that CRT gained last August by selling a controlling stake to a team of American businessmen.

Karl Chapman, chief executive, said: "We now have phenomenal ability to outinvest our competitors." With £75 million of the capital injection left over, he would be "disappointed" if CRT did not buy another company this year.

CRT is paying up to £16.9 million in cash, the balance in loan notes and paper. In the year to September 30, IKPG made underlying profits of £500,000 on sales of £45.1 million. It is expected to add about 40 per cent to CRT's business.

CRT's shares gained 3½p to 235½p yesterday.

Shake-up costs put Claremont into red

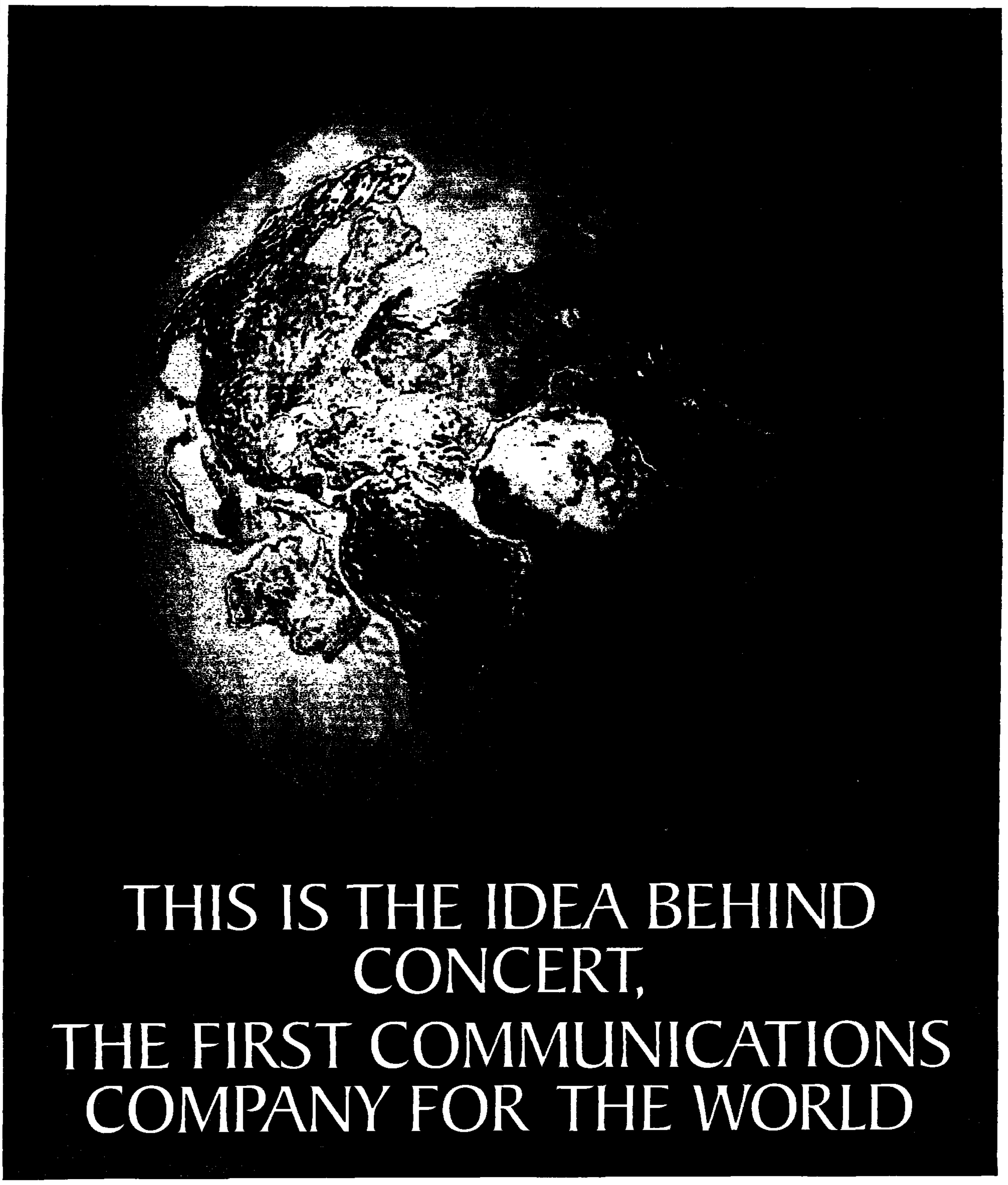
HIGHER than expected reorganisation costs meant Claremont Garments, a major clothing supplier to Marks & Spencer, dived £3 million into the red last year, the company revealed yesterday (Sarah Cunningham writes).

The cost of closing its Glasgow factory and laying off 600 staff were £7.6 million against expectations of £6 million. Added running costs during the reorganisation took a further £2 million off profits, according to Peter Wiegand, chairman and chief executive. The result was a pre-tax loss in the year ended December 28 of £3.05 million compared with a profit of £12.9 million a year earlier.

Cost savings from the reorganisation will not begin to appear until the second half of the current year.

The company is maintaining its final dividend at 5.25p, payable on July 1, for a full-year 9.87p (9.65p).

The company's shares slid 17½p to 152½p.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STOCK MARKET MICHAEL CLARK

BG puzzles the pundits with a mystery 5p rise

Stuart Lyons celebrated a share rise of 3p for Royal Doulton

WHAT is going on at BG, brokers in the Square Mile were asking themselves yesterday as shares in the now demerged British Gas defied a falling market to make a useful gain on the day.

By the close of business the price had shaken off recent nervousness to finish 5p better at 173½p in heavy turnover that saw 17.5 million shares change hands.

The decision to demerge British Gas into two separate companies, BG and Centrica, was the brainchild of its accident-prone management. But the City has never fully shared the company's enthusiasm for the manoeuvre. Even so, the flurry of activity in the shares suggests that something is afoot and that some much-needed good news may be at last on the way for long-suffering shareholders.

Elsewhere, share prices continued to extend this week's losses, reflecting political uncertainty in the run-up to polling day on May 1, fresh losses in bonds and the recent retreat by the pound on the foreign exchange.

The equity market managed to recoup half of its earlier losses, with the FT-SE 100 index closing 16.5 down at 4,356.8. It was 33.2 down at one stage. Total turnover reached 836 million shares, bolstered by a large number of bed and breakfast transactions to establish tax losses before the financial year end.

The weak pound is likely to be good news for **British Steel**, up 4¼p at 158¼p, which was also benefiting from the proposed offer of DM435 million from Krupp-Hoesch for Thyssen, the rival steelmaker.

ICI lost more ground in the wake of Monday's profit downgrading by Kleinwort Benson, the broker, ending 15p lower at 716½p after touching 706½p.

The strong pound has also taken its toll on **Dorling Kindersley**, the publisher, to the tune of £1.5 million. In the first six months it cost the group £800,000. The share ended 31p lower at 270p. The strong currency is also causing problems for **Servomex**, 22½p down at 387½p. Profits last year grew 30 per cent to £3.55 million.

BAT Industries closed 1p cheaper at 517½p after the latest victory in a Florida court for the anti-smoking lobby. But the group's success at imposing a 4 cents a packet increase on cigarettes has been well received.

Shares of **Flextech** tumbled 64½p to 686½p as brokers continued to reflect on this week's proposed link-ups with the BBC. The two have agreed to develop a number of new digital subscription channels. In a second joint venture they will acquire 65 per cent of UK Gold, currently owned by Flextech, and develop the business. The Flextech share price was also depressed by the sale of £7 million worth of shares in the company by Roger Luard, chief executive.

Royal Doulton, where Stuart Lyons is deputy chairman, achieved a solid increase in profits last year despite increased competitive markets in both Britain and the US. Profits at the fine china group were up 15 per cent at £17.6 million. The shares rose 3p to 289½p.

English China Clays continues to reel from the poor reception given to this week's profits news with the price losing 7½p at 200p. Kleinwort Benson is reckoned to have cut its forecast for the current year by £4 million to £65 million.

A price war appears to have broken out among the music retailers with the likes of **Tesco**, down 3½p at 333½p, and **Safeway**, up 4½p at 345p, reported to be adopting an aggressive price-cutting policy on CD albums. **EMI Group** dropped 15p to £11.65 and **W H Smith** was 19½p lower at 459½p.

British Vita was 1p lighter at 206½p. Earlier this week Bob McGee, chairman, paid 208p for an extra 75,000 shares, lifting his total holding to 740,000 shares.

Brokers came away from the meeting with **Delta** in a bearish frame of mind, despite an apparently impressive set of figures. There are doubts about the group's ability to derive further profit from its existing operations. The price had touched 376p, but saw its lead cut back to 19p at 371½p.

A return to the black was rewarded at AIM-listed **London Town** with a rise of 5p to 75p. Profits of £212,000 compared with a loss last time of £28,000. **Ockham Holdings** also reversed last year's £9 million deficit and firmed 2½p to 78½p.

News of heavy restructuring costs and plans to cut the dividend left **Wagon Industrial** nursing a fall of 20½p at 286p. The group is writing off more than £35 million for the reorganisation. Wagon saw its price tumble from a peak of 436p last year after several profit warnings.

Limelight Group was another loser, falling 35p to 107½p after confirming a sales slump. The bathrooms and kitchens supplier said trading in the first 12 weeks of the year had been "disappointing".

Better than expected profits lifted **Roxboro Group** 16½p to 214p, while a solid performance from **Graseby** was good for 12½p on the shares at 170p.

Wilson Connolly finished 6½p better at 166½p after announcing plans to pay a special dividend of 5p.

☐ **GILT-EDGED:** The London bond market continued to lose ground, but outperformed most of its overseas rivals. Brokers reported a flattening of the yield curve as losses among shorter dated issues matched the longer dated stocks.

The Bank of England plans to auction a further £2.5 billion of Treasury 7¾ per cent 2007 next Wednesday.

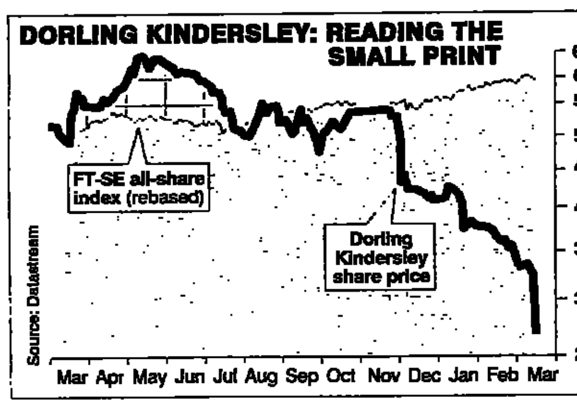
The June series of the long gilt ended seven ticks lower at £110 5/32 as a total of 63,000 contracts were completed.

Treasury 8 per cent 2015 shed four ticks at £103⅝ as did Treasury 8 per cent 2000, which closed at £103 5/32.

☐ **NEW YORK:** Interest rates remained foremost on the minds of investors and shares were subdued. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 15.48 points lower at 6,940.00.

BT shrugged off renewed worries about windfall taxes that would be imposed by a Labour Government, to finish 6p dearer at 442p as 43.4 million shares changed hands. It follows Monday's presentation for brokers to discuss prospects after the acquisition of MCI. The brokers came away bullish.

DORLING KINDERSLEY: READING THE SMALL PRINT



Source: Datastream

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):

Dow Jones	6940.00 (-15.48)
S&P Composite	792.70 (-3.01)

Tokyo:

Nikkei Average	18445.20 (+391.70)

Hong Kong:

Hang Seng	12748.91 (-89.62)

Amsterdam:

EOE Index	741.73 (-11.67)

Sydney:

AO	2404.3 (-23.1)

Frankfurt:

DAX	3291.19 (-59.80)

Singapore:

Straits	2124.29 (-10.94)

Brussels:

General	11895.35 (-166.80)

Paris:

CAC-40	2573.95 (-14.43)

Zurich:

SKA Gen	943.80 (-6.70)

London:

FT 30	2881.2 (-15.8)
FT 100	4356.8 (-16.5)
FTSE Mid 250	4661.5 (-30.5)
FTSE 350	2153.6 (-9.4)
FTSE Eurotrack 100	2146.86 (-17.36)
FT All-Share	2125.56 (-9.46)
FT Non Financials	2181.3 (-8.2)
FT Fixed Interest	118.23 (-0.46)
FT Govt Secs	94.58 (-0.13)
Bargains	61745
SEAQ Volume	836.7m
US$	1.5876 (+0.0008)
German Mark	2.6643 (-0.0174)
Exchange Index	95.7 (-0.4)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	
£:ECU	1.3743
£:SDR	1.1568
RPI	154.4 Jan (2.8%) Jan 1987=100
RPIX	153.9 Jan (3.1%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

Aortech	120½	- 2
Aurora Inv Trust	100	...
Birmingham City	49	...
Cambridge Mini Res	14	...
Centrica (75½)	60¼	- ¼
Core Group	297½	- 27½
Dobbies Garden	260	...
Energy Group (525)	495	- 5½
Girovend Csh Sys	188½	...
Howle	30½	...
M & G High Capital	9	...
M & G High Income	68½	...
M & G High Pckg	100	...
M & G High Unit	78½	...
Nord Anglo Eductn	150	- 2½
Psd Group	271½	- 2
River & Merc 1st UK	100	...
Screen	5½	...
Technoplast	112½	...
Usher of Trwbrdge	120½	...
VFG	41½	...

RIGHTS ISSUES

Grantchstr n/p (137)	37½	- 2
PTS n/p (100)	20	- 1½
Partco n/p (300)	34	...

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:

Wilson (C)	166½p (+15p)
Roxboro	214p (+16½p)
Graseby	168½p (+11p)
Delta	371½p (+19p)
Euro Telecom	215p (+10½p)
Clyde Blowers	361p (+10p)
Irish Perm	605p (+10p)
Britannic	871p (+12p)

FALLS:

Limelight	107½p (-35p)
Dorling Kind	270p (-51p)
Reliance Sec	112p (-13p)
Manders	170p (-15p)
Prism Rail	325p (-25p)
Wagon Ind	286p (-20½p)
Chemring	165p (-10p)
Jarvis	228p (-12p)
Logica	977½p (-45p)
Capita	775p (-32½p)
Parity	540p (-21½p)
Regent Inns	330½p (-10p)

Closing Prices Page 31

TEMPUS

Discord in the pipeline

IT WILL surprise no one that accountants are getting into a tizzy about BG's assets. Ofgas, the company and the stock market cannot agree on a value and there is every possibility that the MMC will come up with another figure, probably different from the one it blessed four years ago.

The well-rehearsed argument between Ofgas and BG over the value of its pipeline network was about depreciation — Ofgas believed that BG was providing too much in its accounts for the replacement of the installed base. It should work on a pay as you go basis and therefore when bills are low, it needs less income to service the network.

In the Platonic world of utilities regulation, the regulator fixes a price so that the net present value of the cash flow equals the regulatory value of the business: that in turn should equal the market value, in this perfect world. Unfortunately the market is ignoring both the £18 billion book value of Transco and the Ofgas regulatory value of £12.5 billion. The market says that BG, plus its debt, is worth about £11.5 billion. Deduct about £4 billion for exploration and the Global Gas business and the pipeline network is worth £7.5 billion, a discount of almost 40 per cent from the Ofgas price.

If the market is wrong, BG is a screaming buy at these levels. The other alternative is that Ofgas is wrong and the market is pricing in the risk that BG will never be able to meet the Ofgas assumption on cost reduction. Either way, there is now a risk that the market will be further upset by a huge asset writedown and maintained depreciation charge. Sid will not be amused.

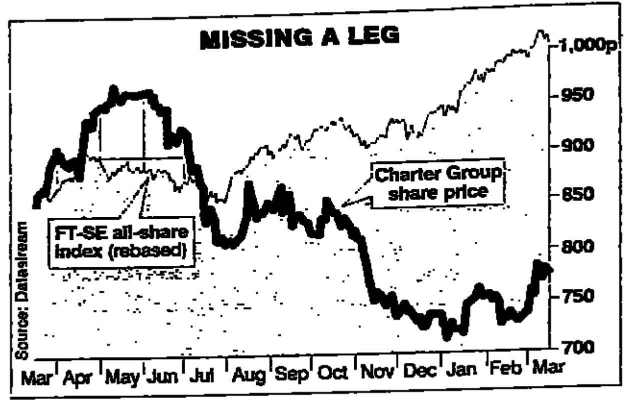
Charter

THE question for Charter Group is not: what if it launches a bid, but, rather, what if it fails to launch a bid? The stock market has factored a bid into the share price, a discount almost encouraged by Charter's management who are keen to whisper about a mysterious "third leg" to all and sundry. The rough and tumble of an aggressive takeover — Howden is the favourite target among those who peddle rumours — will be a new game for Charter. Its last bid, for Esab, was almost sewn up at the start.

Charter needs a new business to get its earnings growth back into double digits. Esab, the Swedish welding equipment company, is a strong performer, earning double-digit margins, but sales growth is likely to be slow until Esab gains a strong position in Asia. Revenues rose only 3 per cent last year in Europe; Esab is unlikely to gain much ground in Germany and France where it is fighting the market leader.

That does not detract from Charter's strength. Double-digit margins and a return on capital of 18 per cent should be the envy of any equipment maker. The trouble is that Charter is being valued as if it were a weaker beast. Its market value, less cash, is less than five times its earnings before interest, tax and depreciation. Failure to get a target in its sights, could well leave Charter looking down the other end of the barrel.

MISSING A LEG



Source: Datastream

Watmoughs

WATMOUGHS does a big line in colour printing for the UK media sector. So when newspapers and magazines sneeze, Watmoughs catches a cold. The latest annual results show the company has yet to recover from a nasty infection it caught during the recent media recession when input prices rose dramatically.

Despite winning a new contract to print a section of *The Sunday Times*, profits are disappointing and well below historic levels. It now looks likely that these levels will remain unattainable in the future. The newspaper industry has changed beyond recognition since Watmoughs started life in 1888 printing a journal on rabbit breeding.

Watmoughs was protected from the rougher climate as long as times were good. But when advertising rates were squeezed during the 1990-92 recession and input prices rose, the company felt the full brunt of cost-cutting.

The Watmoughs board should also be concerned over the growth of electronic media. While the British public will continue to read newspapers well into the next century, there must be a fear readership will continue its long-term decline. So far post-war readership of national newspapers has held up at around 14 million. This is partly due to newspaper price cuts, which need to be financed with cost savings. Bad news for Watmoughs.

Heal's

HEAL'S stores are fine places to walk around. They stock good-quality, expensive, well-designed furniture and a reasonable range of kitchen knick-knacks.

Another nice thing about the stores for browsers is that they are rarely crowded. There is a very good reason for this: relatively few people are able — or willing — to pay the price of a bird's eye maple coffee table.

Heal's is timing its flotation well. More people are moving house, interest rates are low and consumer confidence is growing. Many retailers — jewellers, for example — have noted a tendency for consumers to move upmarket. But come a downturn, furniture spending will be cut and homeowners now fondly dreaming of a Heal's sofa will slope off to Ikea.

The succesful flotation of Harvey Nichols last year has given confidence to small but high-profile retailers. But the extent to which conditions are now in their favour should not be underestimated. The price of 175p per share, giving a historic price-earnings ratio of 17.4 times, is not greedy. But the placing of Heal's shares will mean that they will be tightly held and illiquid. This is not the stock for a punt on the retail sector.

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

COMMODITIES

LIFFE

COCOA

Mar	1025 SLR	May	1077 SLR
May	1033-1032	Jul	1090-1085
Jul	1040-1039	Sep	1100-1096
Sep	1047-1045	Dec	1115 SLR
Dec	unq		
Mar	1063-1062		Volume: 12015

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

Mar	1654 BID	Nov	1668-1645
May	1657-1640	Jan	1630-1620
Jul	1658-1650	Mar	1610-1570
Sep	1650-1670		Volume: 4742

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Dec	301.9-300.0
Spot: 309.5		Mar	301.5-301.1
May	306.5-306.0	May	304.0-300.0
Aug	305.5-305.0	Jun	unq
Oct	301.9-301.5		Volume: 491

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on March 17

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB:	94.15	151.20	100.15
(+/-)	+0.77	+2.17	+1.94
Eng/Wales:	94.42	153.71	99.67
(+/-)	-0.69	+3.00	+1.52
(%)	n/c	+5.0	+16.0
Scotland:	77.22	140.07	104.91
(+/-)	-2.93	-40.01	+3.62
(%)	5.0	-41.0	+6.0

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	19.25	+0.25
Brent 15 day (May)	19.95	+0.30
Brent 15 day (Jun)	19.80	+0.25
W Texas Intermediate (May)	21.35	+0.40
W Texas Intermediate (Jun)	21.20	+0.30

PRODUCTS ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

	Bid	Offer
Premium Unld	209 (-1)	210 (-1)
Gasoil EEC	174 (+1)	175 (+1)
3.5 Fuel Oil	84 (+2)	86 (+2)
Naphtha	195 (n/c)	200 (n/c)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)

GAS OIL

Apr	172.00-72.25	Jul	175.00-75.25
May	173.00-73.25	Aug	176.00-76.25
Jun	174.00-74.25		Vol: 8091

BRENT (6.00pm)

May	20.00-20.01	Aug	19.62-19.64
Jun	19.84-19.89	Sep	19.54 BID
Jul	19.73 BID		Vol: 25902

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

LIFFE WHEAT (close £/t)

Mar	100.15
May	102.00
Jul	104.25
Sep	95.25
Nov	97.35
	Volume: 876

LIFFE BARLEY (close £/t)

Mar	93.00
May	93.50
Sep	92.75
Nov	94.75
Jan	96.75
	Volume: 33

LIFFE POTATO (£/t)

	Open	Close
Apr	56.2	57.1
May	unq	65.1
Jun	—	71.3
		Volume: 60

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/k)

Apr 82.00-82.50

LIFFE BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Mar 97	1520	1518	1518
Apr 97	1630	1602	1615
May 97	1605	1573	1590
Jul 97	1354	1325	1330
Vol: 146 lots		Open Interest: 3135	

Index 1490 +9

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

(Official) (Volume prev day)	Cash	3mth	Rudolf Wolff Vol
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	2373.0-2374.0	2335.0-2335.5	1719275
Lead ($/tonne)	704.00-705.00	695.00-696.00	300300
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1264.5-1265.5	1288.0-1288.5	952200
Tin ($/tonne)	5965.0-5970.0	5980.0-5985.0	34570
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1609.0-1610.0	1643.0-1643.5	3001000
Nickel ($/tonne)	7774.0-7776.0	7871.0-7875.0	119260

LIFFE OPTIONS

	Series	Calls Apr	Calls Jul	Calls Oct	Puts Apr	Puts Jul	Puts Oct
Allied Dom	460	15	25	35	10	24	29
(*465)	500	2	10	19	37	51	53
ASDA	100	8	11	12	1	2	5
(*107)	110	2	6	7	5	7	8
Boots	650	37	47	54	5	18	23
(*676)	700	10	19	29	28	47	49
Br Airways	650	20	36	41	14	29	35
(*654)	700	3	16	25	47	60	66
BP	700	25	47	55	11	26	38
(*710)	750	6	21	32	43	54	61
Br Steel	140	19	22	22	0	4	5
(*158)	160	4	9	9	5	13	15
C & W	500	20	36	40	11	27	32
(*506)	550	3	15	25	45	57	62
[illegible]	650	50	77	86	6	28	43
(*691)	700	20	49	60	24	47	67
ICI	700	28	47	57	9	19	29
(*714)	750	8	25	32	47	46	56
Land Sec	750	38	50	56	2	16	21
(*787)	800	8	30	29	22	42	37
M & S	460	15	29	34	4	20	21
(*475)	500	2	10	17	31	40	40
Nat West	700	26	51	62	12	27	40
(*711)	750	6	25	39	42	55	67
Safeway	330	20	28	33	2	13	17
(*345)	360	4	12	19	15	29	34
Sainsbury	330	26	31	36	1	8	10
(*[illegible])	360	7	14	20	12	22	27
Shell	1050	50	61	75	15	31	37
(*1094)	1100	19	37	48	42	56	69
SmKl Bch	950	51	76	86	9	29	39
(*986)	1000	22	49	60	30	52	62
Storehouse	300	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	330	—	—	—	—	—	—
Trafalgar	80	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	90	—	—	—	—	—	—
Zeneca	1700	104	157	197	15	47	62
(*1785)	1800	43	107	150	51	95	107

	Series	Apr	Jul	Oct	Apr	Jul	Oct
BAT Ind	500	29	45	57	9	21	44
(*518)	550	9	22	34	36	45	61
Vodafone	250	15	26	31	6	14	19
(*259)	300	6	17	22	16	25	29

	Series	May	Aug	Nov	May	Aug	Nov
Grand Met	460	26	40	50	6	11	15
(*480)	500	15	26	34	23	31	35
Ladbroke	220	14	26	30	7	6	9
(*[illegible])	240	6	14	19	11	14	17
[illegible]	240	8	16	20	11	15	20
(*[illegible])	260	3	9	12	26	29	32

March 18, 1997 Tot: [illegible] Call: [illegible] Put: [illegible] FTSE Call: 6102 Put: [illegible]
*Underlying security price

	Series	Calls Apr	Calls Jul	Calls Oct	Puts Apr	Puts Jul	Puts Oct
BAA	500	18	30	36	7	19	22
(*507)	550	1	9	15	42	50	52
Thames W	650	33	55	59	11	35	37
(*675)	700	9	31	35	35	63	65

	Series	May	Aug	Nov	May	Aug	Nov
BTR	260	17	24	27	6	10	13
(*269)	280	8	14	17	15	20	23
Br Aero	1300	75	111	133	26	41	53
(*1335)	1350	48	85	106	48	64	75
Br Telcm	420	31	41	43	5	15	19
(*442)	460	10	19	22	23	38	41
Cadbury	500	43	57	62	6	11	15
(*534)	550	14	26	35	26	32	36
Guinness	460	27	36	43	11	17	20
(*481)	500	7	18	24	35	40	41
GEC	360	33	40	44	3	10	13
(*386)	390	14	22	27	13	24	27
Hanson	280	26	33	37	5	7	12
(*299)	300	13	21	25	12	15	21
LASMO	240	24	31	35	7	10	11
(*256)	260	14	21	25	16	16	20
LucasVarity	200	10	17	20	9	12	16
(*201)	220	3	9	12	22	24	28
Pilkington	130	13	17	—	3	7	—
(*137)	140	7	12	—	7	12	—
Prudential	550	39	50	60	13	21	29
(*574)	600	13	27	36	40	45	54
Redland	360	28	33	41	12	31	23
(*376)	390	11	19	28	29	30	38
R-Royce	210	11	22	25	12	18	20
(*214)	240	4	13	17	25	30	31
Tesco	330	13	21	27	13	18	22
(*333)	360	3	10	15	34	37	40
Williams	330	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	360	—	—	—	—	—	—

FTSE INDEX (*4359)

	4250	4300	4350	4400	4450	4500
Calls						
Mar	113	66	27	5	1	1
Apr	159	101	66	43	24	11
May	175	139	108	81	58	40
Jun	206	173	141	112	87	66
Dec	—	291	—	231	—	179
Puts						
Mar	2	4	15	44	92	142
Apr	27	40	58	83	115	159
May	55	70	91	112	140	171
Jun	75	92	110	132	158	186
Dec	—	161	—	199	—	240

	Series	Calls Apr	Calls Jul	Calls Oct	Puts Apr	Puts Jul	Puts Oct
Abbey Natl	700	56	79	84	3	16	25
(*749)	750	21	49	61	16	36	45
Amstrad	140	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	160	—	—	—	—	—	—
Barclays	1050	59	93	108	6	23	39
(*1097)	1100	26	63	80	23	43	61
Natl Pwr	450	49	—	—	2	—	—
(*497)	500	13	33	37	14	34	42

	Series	Apr	Jul	Oct	Apr	Jul	Oct
Glaxo W	1100	30	68	82	21	41	62
(*1103)	1150	12	44	59	55	72	90
HSBC	1500	65	122	151	23	58	84
(*1535)	1600	19	73	102	77	110	135
Reuter	600	41	63	74	6	21	25
(*632)	650	14	36	48	28	43	49
Royal & Sun	460	14	21	40	11	20	28
(*461)	500	2	14	23	39	45	51

	Series	May	Aug	Nov	May	Aug	Nov
Blue Circ	390	31	36	44	8	12	19
(*416)	420	13	22	29	22	28	33

	Series	May	Aug	Nov	May	Aug	Nov
Kingfisher	650	35	50	60	15	26	32
(*675)	700	12	26	36	45	52	58

	Series	Mar	Jun		Mar	Jun	
Br Gas	220	13	19	—	0	11	—
(*233)	240	1	8	—	7	22	—

	Series	Mar	Jun	Sep	Mar	Jun	Sep
Dixons	460	37	52	58	0	8	16
(*497)	500	2	27	36	5	23	34
EMI Group	1150	15	66	93	3	40	61
(*1165)	1200	1	43	69	35	65	87
Tarmac	90	9	11	13	0	2	3
(*99)	100	1	5	8	1	7	7
Hillsdwn	180	7	11	13	0	7	9
(*187)	200	0	2	5	12	22	23
Lonrho	140	6	12	16	0	5	9
(*146)	160	0	3	7	14	17	18
Sears	90	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	100	—	—	—	—	—	—
Thorn EMI	1500	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	1600	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tomkins	260	13	23	27	0	6	12
(*273)	280	0	11	16	8	14	21
Lloyds TSB	500	13	35	40	1	15	24
(*512)	550	0	13	24	37	44	52
Scot Pwr	325	25	—	—	0	—	—
(*349)	353	2	—	—	6	—	—
Unilever	1600	20	63	97	3	49	63
(*1617)	1700	0	26	50	82	115	125

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
Long Gilt	Mar 97	110-28	110-28	110-20	110-21	1099
Previous open interest: 201752	Jun 97	110-06	110-16	110-01	110-05	72933
German Govt Bond (Bund)	Jun 97	99.95	100.37	99.87	100.01	327447
Previous open interest: 234626	Sep 97	99.30	99.30	99.29	99.16	146
Italian Govt Bond (BTP)	Jun 97	124.20	124.74	123.60	124.17	83193
Previous open interest: 108908	Sep 97	123.90	123.90	123.90	124.22	73
Japanese Govt Bond (JGB)	Jun 97	125.90	125.99	125.74	125.92	2973
	Sep 97				124.54	0
Three Mth Sterling	Mar 97	93.74	93.75	93.73	93.74	5618
	Jun 97	93.51	93.52	93.49	93.50	21713
Previous open interest: 534278	Sep 97	93.29	93.30	93.26	93.27	15670
Three Mth Euromark	Jun 97	96.65	96.69	96.65	96.67	41574
Previous open interest: 1143303	Sep 97	96.50	96.58	96.50	96.56	56000
Three Mth Eurolira	Jun 97	92.80	92.86	92.65	92.72	40139
Previous open interest: 232252	Sep 97	93.00	93.07	92.83	92.91	23577
Three Mth Euroyen	Sep 97	99.26	99.26	99.24	99.25	5004
	Dec 97	99.11	99.11	99.11	99.11	2100
Three Mth Euroswiss	Jun 97	98.14	98.17	98.11	98.16	12283
Previous open interest: 61593	Sep 97	98.08	98.13	98.06	98.13	4142
Three Mth ECU	Jun 97	95.66	95.68	95.64	95.64	3081
Previous open interest: 28786	Sep 97	95.63	95.63	95.58	95.58	855
FTSE 100	Mar 97	4368.0	4373.0	4338.0	4361.0	19964
Previous open interest: 75049	Jun 97	4389.0	4393.0	4359.0	4382.5	9872

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 6 Finance Hse 6½
Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 6¼ Low 5[illegible] Week fixed: 5[illegible]
Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth 5[illegible]; 3 mth 5[illegible]. Sell: 2 mth 5[illegible]; 3 mth: 5[illegible].

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	
Sterling Money Rates:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Interbank:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Overnight: open 5[illegible], close 6[illegible].					
Local Authority Deps:	6	n/a	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Sterling CDs:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Dollar CDs:	5.30	n/a	5.53	5.69	6.02
Building Society CDs:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	5-4
Deutschemark:	3[illegible]-2	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
French Franc:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Swiss Franc:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Yen:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	1-par

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open $347.40-347.80 Close: $346.60-347.10 High: $347.40-347.90
Low: $345.00-345.50 AM: $347.40 PM: $346.30

Krugerrand: $345.75-348.75 (£217.50-219.50)

Platinum: $375.75 (£236.55) Silver: $5.12 (£3.215) Palladium: $142.50 (£89.70)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for March 18	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	2.9906-3.0326	3.0009-3.0053	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Brussels	54.991-55.600	54.991-55.029	15-10pr	40-33pr
Copenhagen	10.179-10.289	10.182-10.191	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Dublin	1.0163-1.0213	1.0170-1.0185	5-1pr	14-8pr
Frankfurt	2.6612-2.6941	2.6657-2.6676	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Lisbon	268.26-271.12	268.37-268.67	[illegible]ds	[illegible]ds
Madrid	226.38-228.71	226.39-226.63	6-3pr	26-9pr
Milan	2678.8-2698.2	2679.6-2682.5	20-42ds	78-100ds
Montreal	2.1755-2.1836	2.1804-2.1822	0.61-0.50pr	1.15-1.00pr
New York	1.5866-1.5922	1.5886-1.5904	0.95-0.75pr	0.263-0.232pr
Oslo	10.829-10.933	10.829-10.838	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Paris	8.9920-9.0420	8.9962-9.0032	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Stockholm	12.244-12.319	12.244-12.261	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Tokyo	194.63-196.02	194.71-194.93	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Vienna	18.749-18.904	18.761-18.776	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Zurich	2.2859-2.3208	2.2881-2.2903	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr

Source: Extel Premium - pr. Discount - ds.

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.2682-1.2690
Austria	11.83-11.84
Belgium (Com)	34.71-34.75
Canada	1.3716-1.3721
Denmark	6.4270-6.4290
France	5.6780-5.6785
Germany	1.6820-1.6825
Hong Kong	7.7470-7.7480
Ireland	1.5585-1.5605
Italy	1689.90-1692.00
Japan	122.66-122.76
Malaysia	2.4713-2.4723
Netherlands	1.8940-1.8945
Norway	6.8475-6.8535
Portugal	169.42-169.47
Singapore	1.4384-1.4389
Spain	142.93-142.98
Sweden	7.7297-7.7371
Switzerland	1.4447-1.4453

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.5868-1.5894
Australia dollar	2.0124-2.0150
Bahrain dinar	0.5930-0.6050
Brazil real*	1.6777-1.6820
China yuan	13.017-13.317
Cyprus pound	0.7975-0.8075
Finland markka	8.0225-8.1385
Greece drachma	420.5-427.5
Hong Kong dollar	12.2875-12.2970
India rupee	56.54-57.50
Indonesia rupiah	3788.0-3856.6
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4775-0.4875
Malaysia ringgit	3.9197-3.9240
New Zealand dollar	2.2858-2.2890
Pakistan rupee	63.20 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.7225-5.8465
Singapore dollar	2.2814-2.2838
S Africa rand (com)	6.9720-7.0740
U A E dirham	5.7725-5.9965

*Barclays Bank GTS * Lloyds Bank*

FTSE VOLUMES

3i	379	Land Secs	1,700
ASDA Gp	20,000	Legal & Gn	3,800
Abbey Ntl	2,700	Lloyds TSB	10,000
Allied Dom	1,500	LucasVarity	2,400
Argos	563	Marks Spr	4,500
AB Foods	177	Mercury Asset	200
BAA	7,300	NatWst Bk	7,100
BAT Indy	8,800	Nat Grid	3,600
BG	17,500	Nat Power	1,900
BOC	268	Next	1,300
BP	9,000	Orange	2,200
BSkyB	2,000	P & O	532
BTR	6,700	Pearson	1,300
BT	43,400	PowerGen	2,500
Bk of Scot	2,000	Prudential	3,900
Barclays	4,600	RMC	[illegible]
Bass	576	RTZ	2,600
Blue Circle	487	Railtrack	2,400
Boots	984	Rank Group	9,500
BAe	1,200	Reckitt Col	1,300
BA	2,200	Reed Intl	553
Brit Steel	13,700	Rentokil Inl	7,200
Burmah Cstl	529	Reuters	6,100
Burton	4,100	Rolls Royce	5,500
Cable Wire	2,900	Royal & Sun	5,000
Cadbury	4,200	Royal Bk Scl	1,300
Carlton Cms	908	Safeway	4,400
Centrica	27,000	Sainsbury	5,900
Cm Union	3,200	Schroders	81
Dixons	1,200	Scot & New	1,400
EMI	807	Scot Power	1,500
Energy Gp	1,100	Svrn Trent	2,600
Enterpr Oil	1,200	Shell Trans	4,000
GKN	412	Siebe	1,900
GRE	1,500	SmKl Bch	2,500
GUS	1,600	Smith Nph	3,900
Gen Acc	1,300	Smiths Inds	460
Gen Elec	5,500	Std Chard	2,400
Glaxo Well	3,800	TI Gp	741
Granada	5,200	Tate & Lyle	1,100
Grand Met	2,800	Tesco	16,000
Guinness	2,400	Thames W	1,500
HSBC	1,400	Tomkins	3,900
Hanson	4,500	Unilever	1,800
Hays	1,200	Utd Utilities	1,000
ICI	3,100	Utd News	714
Imp Tob	1,100	Vodafone	3,400
Kingfisher	1,500	Whitbread	825
LASMO	5,700	Wolseley	1,400
Ladbroke	2,300	Zeneca	1,300

WALL STREET

	Mar 18 midday	Mar 17 close
AMP Inc	37	37
AMR Corp	87	86
ASA	35	35
AT & T	35	35
Abbott Labs	59	60
Advanced Micro	45	45
Aetna Life	89	89
Ahmanson (HF)	38	38
Air Prod & Chem	74	74
Airtouch Comm	24	24
Alberto-Culver B	27	27
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Alcan Aluminum	37	37
Allied Signal	73	73
Alum Co of Am	74	75
Amax Gold Inc	7	7
Amerada Hess	54	55
Amer Brands	52	52
Amer El Power	41	40
Amer Express	64	65
Amer Genl Corp	42	42
Amer Home Pr	64	64
Amer Intl	126	126
Amer Stores	45	45
Amer Standard	45	46
Ameritech	62	62
Amoco	89	88
Anheuser-Busch	44	44
Apple Computer	16	16
Archer Daniels	19	18
Armco	3	3
Armstrong Wrld	71	71
Asarco	30	31
Atl Richfield	126	126
Auto Data Pro	42	42
Avery Dennison	42	42
Avon Products	56	56
Baker Hughes	38	38
Baltim Gas & El	27	27
Banc One	43	44
BankAmerica	114	115
Bank of NY	38	39
Bankers Tr NY	90	91
Barnett Banks	48	47
Bausch & Lomb	38	36
Baxter Intl	46	46
Bctn Dickson	46	46
Bell Atlantic	64	64
Bell Industries	18	18
BellSouth	44	44
Black & Decker	34	34
Block (H&R)	29	29
Boeing	106	107
Boise Cascade	32	32
Bristol Myrs Sq	66	65
Browning Ferris	31	31
Brunswick	28	28
Burlington Nthn	82	81
CMS Energy Corp	32	32
CNA Financial	114	114
CPC Intl	84	85
CSX	50	50
Campbell Soup	47	46
Can Pacific	24	24
Carolina Pwr	36	37
Caterpillar	80	80
Central & SW	23	23
Champion Intl	44	44
Chase Manhat	101	102
Chevron Corp	67	67
Chrysler	29	29
Chubb Corp	54	54
Cigna Corp	155	155
Citicorp	117	117
Clorox	121	120
Coastal Corp	48	48
Coca Cola	60	60
Coca Cola Ent	62	62
Colgate-Palm	106	106
Columbia Gas	64	64
Columbia/HCA	42	41
Compaq Comp	76	77
Comp Ass Intl	38	38
Conagra	56	55
Conrail	112	112
Cons Edison	30	31
Cons Nat Gas	53	51
Cooper Inds	46	46
Corestates	52	52
Corning Inc	45	45
Crown Cork	51	51
Dana Corp	31	32
Dayton Hudson	41	40
Deere	45	45
Delta Air Lines	82	82
Deluxe Corp	31	31
Digital Equip	29	29
Dillard Dept St	32	32
Disney (Walt)	76	76
Dominion Res	38	38
Donnelley (RR)	36	36
Dover Corp	51	51
Dow Chemical	81	81
Dow Jones	41	41
Dresser	31	31
Duke Power	44	44
Dun & Bradstreet	26	26
Du Pont	112	111
Eastman Chem	55	55
Eastman Kodak	80	80
Eaton Corp	74	74
Edison Intl	21	21
Elect Data Sys	42	42
Emerson Elec	90	90
Engelhard Corp	23	23
Enron Corp	40	40
Entergy	25	26
Ethyl Corp	8	8
Exxon	101	103
FMC Corp	65	66
FPL Group	45	44
Federal Express	56	55
First Bk Sys	78	78
First Union Rlty	17	17
Fleet Finl Grp	60	61
Fluor Corp	55	55
Ford Motor	32	32
GTE Corp	45	45
Gannett	86	85
Gap Inc Del	36	35
Gencorp	19	19
Gen Dynamics	67	67
Gen Electric	103	104
Gen Mills	62	61
Gen Motors	57	58
Gen Reinsurance	170	170
Gen Signal	40	40
Genuine Parts	46	48
Georgia Pac	77	78
Gillette	80	79
Glaxo Wellc ADR	35	36
Goodrich (BF)	40	41
Goodyear Tire	55	55
Gt Atl Pac Tea	27	27
Great Wstn Fin	45	45
Halliburton	69	66
Harcourt General	47	47
Heinz (HJ)	41	42
Hercules	44	45
Hershey Foods	51	51
Hewlett Packard	55	55
Hilton Hotels	26	26
Home Depot	58	57
Homestake Mng	15	16
Honeywell	73	72
Household Intl	94	94
Houston Inds	21	21
Humana	22	22
ITT Corp	59	60
Ikon Office	38	37
Illinois Tool	80	80
Illinova	23	23
INCO	36	36
Ingersoll Rand	47	47
Inland Steel	19	19
Intel Corp	135	136
IBM	139	139
Intl Flav & Fr	46	46
Intl Paper	43	43
James River Va	33	33
Jhnsn & Jhnsn	57	57
Kellogg	68	67
Kerr-McGee	64	64
Kimberly-Clark	106	107
Kmart	12	12
Knight-Ridder	41	40
Lilly (Eli)	86	86
Limited Inc	20	20
Lincoln Nat	59	59
Litton	48	49
Liz Claiborne	45	44
Lockheed Martin	85	86
Louisiana Pac	21	21
MCI Comm	36	36
Manpower Inc	38	38
Marriott Intl	51	51
Marsh & McLnn	125	125
Masco Corp	37	37
May Dept St	49	49
Maytag Corp	21	21
McDonald's	48	46
McDonnell D	66	66
McGraw Hill	52	52
Mead Corp	56	55
Medtronic	65	64
Mellon Bk	76	80
Merck Inc	91	91
Merrill Lynch	94	93
Microsoft	100	101
Minnesota Mine	89	90
Mobil Corp	132	132
Monsanto	41	41
Morgan (JP)	107	108
Motorola Inc	55	55
Natl Semi	28	28
Natl Service Ind	38	38
Navistar Intl	9	9
NY Times A	45	45
Newmont Mng	43	43
Niag Mohawk	8	8
Nike B	66	65
NL Industries	11	11
Noram Energy	14	15
Nordstrom	37	37
Norfolk Sthrn	92	92
Nthn State Pwr	48	47
Norwest Corp	49	49
Nynex Corp	46	46
Occidental Pet	24	24
Ohio Edison	21	21
Oracle	42	42
Oryx Energy Co	19	19
Overseas Ship	16	16
Owens Corning	42	42
PHH Corp	48	47
PPG Industries	57	57
PNC Bank	42	42
PP&L Res	20	21
Paccar Inc	74	73
Pacificorp	20	20
Pac Enterprises	31	31
Pac Telesis	40	40
Pall Corp	24	24
Parker Hannifin	45	45
Peco Energy	20	21
Penney (JC)	50	50
Pennzoil	52	52
Pepsico	31	31
Pfizer	92	92
Pharm & Upjhn	37	38
Phelps Dodge	77	78
Philip Morris	126	126
Phillips Pet	41	41
Pitney Bowes	60	60
Polaroid	43	43
Procter & Gmbl	126	125
Providian	56	57
Pub Serv E & G	26	26
Quaker Oats	37	37
Ralston Purina	84	83
Raychem Corp	87	86
Raytheon	48	48
Reebok Intl	49	49
Reynolds Metals	64	65
Rockwell Intl	68	68
Rohm & Haas	89	89
Royal Dutch	177	178
Rubbermaid	24	24
SBC Comms	55	55
Safeco Corp	41	41
St Paul's Cos	70	70
Salomon Inc	52	52
Sara Lee Corp	41	40
Schering Plough	79	81
Schlumberger	110	111
Seagram	39	39
Sears Roebuck	55	54
Shell Trans	103	103
Sherwin Wllms	56	56
Skyline Corp	23	24
Snap-On-Tools	42	42
Southern Co	21	21
Sprint Corp	42	42
Stanley Works	39	39
Sun Company	27	27
Sun Microsys	28	28
Suntrust	52	52
Supervalu	30	30
Sysco Corp	35	35
TRW Inc	55	55
TCC Inds	1	1
Tandem Comp	12	12
Tandy Corp	52	52
Temple Inland	55	55
Tenneco	40	40
Texaco	101	101
Texas Inst	81	82
Texas Utilities	36	36
Textron	103	103
Time Warner	43	43
Times-Mirror A	57	56
Timken	55	55
Torchmark	60	59
Toys R Us	28	28
Transamerica	91	91
Travelers	52	51
Tribune	40	40
Tyco Intl	58	58
UST Inc	28	29
UAL	71	70
US Inds	37	36
US West Comm	34	35
US West Media	19	19
USAirways Group	26	26
USX Marathon	26	27
Unicom	20	21
Unilever NV	187	187
Union Camp	49	49
Union Carbide	48	48
Union Pacific	60	60
Unisys Corp	6	6
USF&G Corp	22	22
US Life	47	47
United Tech	76	75
Unocal Corp	39	39
VF Corp	68	68
WMX Tech	31	32
Wal-Mart Stores	28	29
Warner-Lambert	87	88
Wells Fargo	303	302
Westinghouse El	19	19
Weyerhaeuser	48	48
Whirlpool	51	50
Whitman	24	24
Winn Dixie	33	33
Woolworth	22	23
Wrigley (Wm) Jr	60	60
Xerox	60	61
Yellow Corp	16	17

ص١٢٥ من الارشيف

هكذا من الاصل

THE TIMES

CITY DIARY

Leslau chases screen dream

IT HAS been a busy week for Nick Leslau. Only 24 hours after anouncing his decision to take Noddy to America, the chief executive of Trocadero yesterday staked his claim to open Europe's first Pepsi IMAX 3D cinema. Towering five storeys high and spanning the width of an Olympic swimming pool, the £6 million state-of-the-art cinema is to be housed in the Piccadilly leisure complex.

In the crossfire

ROGER BOOTLE came under fire at Bloomberg's bunfight to discuss the proposition: "New Labour, New Government". Sandwiched between William Waldegrave, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, and Labour counterpart Alistair Darling, HSBC's chief economist was clearly caught in the middle. A bearded Darling sniped at Bootle, who was acting as compere: "You're doing your Liberal role-playing, just like Paddy." Waldegrave retorted: "No, he's not at all like Paddy, he's very sensible." Ouch.

Smouha reward

WHO better to keep an eye on finances at The World Bank than Brian Smouha? As a reward for taking on two of the most sensational banking scandals in recent history — Banco Ambrosiano and BCCI — the Deloitte & Touche partner is to become lead auditor to the Bank. One major plus for Smouha, who recovered some 90 per cent of Ambrosiano's assets, is that he can resign as the Luxembourg liquidator to BCCI. He also gets to relocate to Washington. Virtue, as they say...

"£30 off our electric bill — how much will that be in windfall tax?"

Bookies buzzing

BOOKMAKERS flew into a spin after the news that *The Sun* is to back Blair. Ladbrokes moved the number of seats Labour will win from 364-370 to 372-378. Meanwhile, City Index has upgraded the number of seats predicted to be won by Labour from 365-371 to 373-379. Punters appear to have a different view, however. Since the opening of trade yesterday morning, they were busy buying the Tories (predicting more than 238 seats) and selling Labour (predicting less than 375 seats).

INSPIRED by Marjorie Scardino's mission statement on Monday, Dennis Stevenson has upped his stake in Pearson. The incoming chairman of the media and leisure group bought another 30,000 shares, adding to the first tranche he bought from former managing director Frank Barlow.

Viscount Lords it

TONY BLAIR'S economics spokesman stepped into Lord Marsh's shoes yesterday as chairman of Lopex. Viscount Tom Chandos, a former corporate finance director at Kleinwort Benson and executive director of Botts & Company, will take over from Lord Marsh, the former Cabinet Minister in Harold Wilson's administration and chairman of British Rail, who now sits as a crossbencher in the Lords.

MORAG PRESTON

Seek and you will find truth on jobs is hard to work out

Philip Bassett surveys the battle lines drawn in the dispute over how to count unemployment

Official figures have reported unprecedented numbers getting on their bikes

Widespread scepticism about the validity of unemployment statistics will erode much of the goodwill that government ministers might have expected to enjoy from two months of upbeat news about the jobs market during the election campaign.

While ministers are confident that new figures today will show a further decline in seasonally adjusted unemployment, business and the City reserve judgment because of a key change in benefits, which makes it much more difficult to gauge what is really going on in the labour market.

United Kingdom unemployment has been on a clear downward trend since reaching a high of 2.98 million in December 1992. But the Government's decision to change radically the principal state benefit available to people who have lost their jobs, scrapping the old unemployment benefit and replacing it with the Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA), blurs that trend.

The monthly unemployment figures are widely used as a "count of unemployment", which is one thing they are not. What they are is an administrative byproduct of the count made on a particular day each month of people who are receiving benefit because they are unemployed.

When governments decide to reform a state benefit, a change in figures often results. This is the root of the charge that unemployment figures have been altered at least 30 times since the Conservatives came to power in 1979. They have, but what has not been proven is the intent: the Government says it is to improve the benefits system, while its opponents say it is to reduce the dole queues artificially.

The change to JSA was so fundamental — essentially, shifting to means-tested benefit after six rather than 12 months, with the allowance itself tougher to obtain — that neither ministers nor Whitehall officials knew what effect it would have on the figures.

Though the monthly falls in unemployment had been accelerating as JSA started to come into effect for new claimants, no one was prepared for the sharp jump in the monthly decline when the full effects of JSA came into being last October.

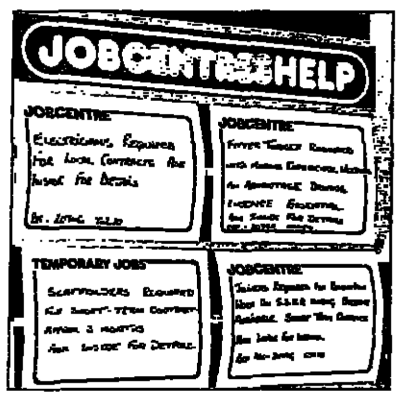
After an average fall in the jobless of 19,300 over the previous six months, the drop in October was 45,600. November witnessed the biggest fall in unemployment for a quarter of a century, when the count fell by a massive 95,400. December's drop was a large 46,700, while last month's was the second largest for 25 years, at 67,800. "We thought we might get one month's hit," acknowledges one senior Whitehall figure. "We didn't think we'd get this."

The sheer scale of the falls — the drop from October onwards is the same as the total fall for the previous year and a half combined — is making business and the City suspicious, let alone the Government's political opponents. More than a quarter of a million people have come off the count since October.

Sudhir Junankar, associate director for economic analysis at the Confederation of British Industry, says: "We have to take these figures with a very large pinch of salt."

Bank of England officials agree. The Bank's last inflation report was sceptical, suggesting that even the not-yet fully compatible unemployment figures from the Government's quarterly *Labour Force Survey* "implies that the labour market did not tighten as quickly in autumn 1996 as the fall in the administrative claimant count indicates", citing particularly a JSA effect. So what is it? What has been, and is being, the effect of the introduction of JSA on unemployment in Britain? Inevitably, there are a number of answers, and these are complicated by an interdepartmental row in Whitehall that means the Government having, in effect, two answers. The main views are:

☐ **Statisticians:** JSA has one key effect on the Office for National Statistics (ONS), the Government's statistics-collecting and producing arm: it makes it nervous. Battered by the political disputes over unemployment figures, the ONS has sought to determine the JSA effect, and where it cannot, to say so.



> JSA has clearly affected the jobless figures

Ministers have been irritated by this, mainly because the ONS has suspended its estimate of the monthly trend in unemployment, depriving ministers of what might have been a potent weapon in the election campaign. Ministers would like their unemployment ball back — to kick it at the opposition.

ONS officials try to disentangle the impact of JSA into three elements. The first relates to changed office procedures — the time benefit office staff are taking to assess and process claims, given an unfamiliar benefit, and the conversion to a new computer system to process JSA claims. They estimate that the flow on to the jobless count has therefore been lower than would otherwise have been the case, depressing the count by up to 8,000, but they believe these effects will be temporary, as the system beds in. Secondly, they believe a shift to earlier means testing is having an effect on the stock of unemployment. Including a likely 5,000 reduction in today's figure, ONS officials believe that the total impact of this element has been to reduce the claimant count by about 15,000. Thirdly, they cite what are called "behavioural" effects, deterring people from making fraudulent claims, in the way the Government's Project Work "workfare" pilot scheme has done.

The Government yesterday strongly supported Project Work in evidence to the Commons' all-party Employment Select Committee. They may also include the impact of a reduction in postal signing for benefit, and further fraud measures, such as the Benefit Agency's Fraud Hotline, through which benefit cheats are shopped.

ONS officials cannot estimate the impact on the claimant count of these possible effects.

☐ **Ministers and other Whitehall officials.** All this is a bit too cautious for some ministers, who fear they cannot claim the political prize of a rapid fall in unemployment. They insist that whatever the precise statistical impact of JSA, the trend in the fall in unemployment is now decisively different.

Instead of the 15,000 to 20,000 estimate put forward by the ONS, and suspended since last autumn, ministers in other departments and their officials believe unemployment is now dropping by up to 30,000 a month. Whitehall departments other than the ONS have been carrying out their own analysis of the effect of JSA since last month's unemployment drop, and their best estimate is that roughly about half the current drop is due to the new benefit, and half due to improvements in the labour market.

☐ **Independent employment analysts:** Job pressure groups take a more sceptical view of the JSA effect. John Philpott, director of the Employment Policy Institute, says the figures "have obviously been affected by the revolution in the benefit regime following the introduction of the JSA".

The Unemployment Unit lobbying group calculates the cumulative effect of JSA so far is some 130,000, suggesting the 253,000 fall since October would only have been 116,000 without JSA, with the average monthly fall only really 29,500, against 64,000 in the official, published figures.

Paul Convery, Unemployment Unit director, says: "The Government should simply stop pretending that this measure represents the numbers of unemployed."

The full effect of JSA will not be known for a while — indeed, job experts are still arguing about the claimant count effect of the Restart programme, introduced in 1986. But it is clear that the clouding of the figures will colour the pre-election debate over jobs.

ANTHONY HARRIS

EMU: danger of wishful thinking

This column is an election-free zone. It shouldn't be: EMU was until recently *the* issue facing the next Parliament. But now it is the great unmentionable, and not just among politicians. Until recently the bond markets "knew" that EMU would launch on time. Continental bond yields converged, and Sterling was an election play: Labour would take us in, to the benefit of gilts. But now, dither. Convergence plays are unwinding. The election here, Labour leads, but gilt yields are edging up. All bets are off.

Across the Channel, meanwhile, wishful thinking — not my words, but those of a Commission official, describing German economic projections designed to show that everything will be all right on the night. How true! Chancellor Kohl, dismissing all doubts, sounds more and more like John Major, who proclaimed Britain's "irrevocable" membership of the ERM — up to the day he revoked it. Anyway, the idea of the Fat Controller missing his own start is appealing in itself, so lips are being licked.

Wishful again. An optimistic forecast can still be right. German near-term growth prospects depend almost entirely on how quickly that economy responds to devaluation; and since Germany has not devalued within living memory (unless you count the dollar bubble in the early 1980s), that is a matter of pure guesswork. Germany could still qualify, at least on the borrowing test. And does strict compliance with the numbers really matter? The Chancellor may like to proclaim that "three means three"; but he is talking about keeping Italy out of EMU, not letting Germany in. The Treaty is fuzzier.

It says that a deficit over 3 per cent of GDP will qualify if it is "exceptional and temporary". The 60 per cent limit on the government debt/GDP ratio, which Germany will almost certainly fail to meet, looks less elastic; but the sanction is not exclusion, but a Commission report on the medium-term outlook. Note that it may also report on those who *do* qualify "if it is of the opinion that there is a risk of an excessive deficit" — a clear threat to the Club Med countries, which have stormed up the field from nowhere. In theory, this clause could also threaten the likes of France, which qualify through fiscal fudge.

But is this likely? The Treaty sets numbers as targets, but makes the Commission jury; and one cannot imagine the Commission showing a red card to the biggest core members of the EC. The only real political threat to the launch is the qualified majority vote that will give the final verdict. If the Club Med countries are barred, they may have to be bought off — at least with promises. These will be forthcoming. A more distant threat is the emerging opposition to the whole Maastricht project in countries that were once solid supporters. Opponents include, potentially, the German Social Democrats, and a new French party.

But can they really gather enough support at this late hour to block the launch? Wishful thinking may say yes, but reason says no. EMU still looks an odds-on bet to start on time, though with a skeleton crew for its trials. And what about those trials? Conventional wisdom and the market say that with a hand-picked crew, nothing can go wrong. Charles Goodhart, financial markets guru at the LSE and former voice of reality at the Bank of England, begs to differ.

Trouble, he says, could emerge not slowly, through regional decline, but suddenly, and in the bond markets. National debts, he says in the current issue of *Prospect*, will no longer be the sovereign debt the market knows — bonds subject to exchange-rate risk, but backed by the power to print money. They will carry solvency risk, like Liverpool Docks and Harbour, or New York City. Or, say, Belgium?

Making a case for letting sleeping watchdogs lie

Christine Buckley on how MPs viewed the regulatory industry

Spottiswoode: endorsement

Littlechild: bolstered

Political arguments over the ethics of a windfall tax aside, both Labour and Conservative members of the Commons Trade and Industry Select Committee agree that lax price controls and regulation served up excess profits for the energy industry in the early days of privatisation. Shareholders saw the value of investments rocket because the businesses were sold off cheaply and price controls failed to anticipate the large cost savings that could be delivered.

But the committee's criticism has not inspired proposals for an overhaul of the process that delivered those excess profits. Instead, after several months of inquiry and comparisons with systems elsewhere, the all-party group is happy to leave the regulatory structure largely untouched. RPI-X, the price control linked to the rate of inflation that has become the cornerstone of utility regulation, should stay while the regulators should carry on in the belief that they have learnt from their mistakes and are now fully aware of the weight of scrutiny and expectations.

Many will feel that the chance for radical reform has been lost. Regulation has been attacked over price control, with fierce condemnation of a system that has seen companies pay large benefits to shareholders while consumers see few comparative benefits.

Other methods do exist of controlling prices charged by private companies for providing essential services. While endorsing the continued life of RPI-X, the trade and industry select committee has indicated that a voluntary system of profit-sharing, such as that advocated by the water regulator, could prove a welcome add-on to RPI-X.

A number of companies have opted to offer consumer rebates and voluntary price-cutting. But the problem with voluntary arrangements is that they are ad hoc and at the company's discretion. The water regulator has already experienced intransigence from one company.

An alternative way of curbing profits is to set a rate of return that the company is permitted to achieve on its assets. This form of regulation operates in the United States and is less incentive-oriented than RPI-X, which works to encourage cost savings and efficiencies within companies. But the formula also stands accused of encouraging unnecessary capital investment to secure greater returns.

RPI-X, meanwhile, is criticised for its opposite effect of encouraging short-termism among businesses anxious to deliver immediate savings and productivity increases at the expense of longer-term investment planning.

One area where the select committee has shown more teeth in its recommendations involves the power that regulators have over their industries. It urges an inquiry to discover whether Professor Stephen Littlechild, the electricity regulator, needs more powers to get to grips with the much-criticised electricity pool. The pool — the marketplace for power — and the issue of competition in power-generation have long been bones of contention among large users and regional electricity companies. After the last select committee report into energy regulation recommended scrutiny of generators' margins and costs, Professor Littlechild moved ahead with his divestment plans. He may well respond again to this fresh bolstering of the concerns over the extent of competition in generation.

Clare Spottiswoode, the gas regulator, will also be thankful for what amounts to a ringing endorsement of her battles to make public more information about Transco, British Gas's pipeline network. The committee recommends that information regarding a natural monopoly should be assumed to be non-confidential unless otherwise stipulated. On this point early legislation is urged as an acknowledgment of the conflict between regulator and regulated over information.

The committee has further recommended that the Government should keep a check on regulators' budgets to ensure they have something with which to combat the financial might of the regulated businesses.

When the Labour Party has stopped waving the report as backing for its windfall tax, its own trade and industry team must decide whether to endorse the report's tinkering approach or go for a more radical reform of regulation. If Labour forms the next government the renewal date for all the utilities' price controls will come up in 2000, two years ahead of another general election. If it does nothing to the regulatory process it must hope that, by then, controversy and condemnation have indeed been overtaken by the level of satisfaction that the trade and industry select committee anticipates.

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CIRCUIT PROTECTION ◀◀◀◀◀◀◀◀◀◀◀◀◀◀

DELTA

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Building on operational strengths, we intend to realise our potential by focusing resources on higher added value products and markets with higher growth opportunities.

	1996	1995
	£m	
Turnover	950.0	1018.5
Profit before interest	55.5	63.4
Profit before tax	45.6	53.1
Earnings per share	15.2p	20.0p
Dividends per share	18.9p*	18.9p*

*Final dividend to be paid as a Foreign Income Dividend (FID)

Copies of the Annual Report & Accounts for the year ended 28th December 1996, from which the above is an extract, are available from 4th April from the Secretary, Delta plc, 1 Kingsway, London WC2B 6XF. Telephone 0171-836 3535.

CABLES ▲▲▲▲▲▲▲▲▲▲▲▲▲▲▲

Cowie bus takeover endorsed

The Government has backed the Monopolies and Mergers Commission conclusion that the £300 million takeover by transport group Cowie of its rival British Bus was not against the public interest.

John Taylor, Minister for Corporate and Consumer Affairs, agreed with the MMC that, nationally, the takeover could mean more competition, not less. He said London's bus market was regulated enough to guarantee competition, even though Cowie is the capital's biggest private operator. Cowie now controls more than a quarter of all London's buses.

Pathfinder aim

Pathfinder Properties, which owns and rents out housing in London, plans to join the Alternative Investment Market next week. Andrew de Candole, chairman, has put up £750,000 to buy out shareholders who hold stakes through the Business Enterprise Scheme. The company, expected to be capitalised at £1.4 million, will concentrate on home conversions from commercial property. It has already bought a former telephone exchange in Wimbledon, south London, which it plans to turn into 104 apartments.

BT link-up

British Telecommunications will increase its operations in Japan through a joint venture next month with Marubeni Corporation, the Japanese telecoms business, that will aim to increase the business by offering direct access to global services. BT will have a 51 per cent stake, Marubeni 31 per cent and minority shareholders the rest.

Secure future

Secure Trust, the financial services company, is paying a final dividend of 14p, making the total 20p (18p). Secure's pre-tax profits for 1996 edged higher to £9.4 million. Income from its bill-paying service for consumers rose 10 per cent.

NEWSTEAM

Ian Black, managing director of Wilson Connolly, left, David Lawther, finance director, centre, and Lynn Wilson, chairman

Profits up at Wilson Connolly

By Adam Jones

PRE-TAX profit at Wilson Connolly Holdings, the housebuilder, rose 17 per cent to £26.4 million in 1996, on the back of the patchy property revival.

Turnover rose to £300 million (£245 million), driven by buoyancy in southern England. In total, 4,154 new homes were sold in 1996, with an increased average selling price of £61,580 (£59,600). Three- or four-bedroomed houses accounted for 66 per cent of sales.

But the performance in Scotland — where difficulty in obtaining planning permission hindered growth — and northern England was disappointing, with prices for new homes remaining flat.

A final dividend of 3.44p (3.18p), payable on June 2, and a special dividend of 5p, payable on April 4, are proposed.

Sterling threatens Glynwed's 'first real growth this decade'

By Oliver August

GLYNWED International, the engineering group, is benefiting from the strength of the housing market, which has offset the cost of the rise in sterling. The growing number of people moving into new homes has boosted sales of consumer durables.

Volume growth at Glynwed's consumer durables unit reached 15 per cent last year after declining for seven years. A spokesman said: "This is the first real growth we have seen this decade."

Glynwed is market leader in the leisure cooker market and has seen sales of gas and electric cookers increase across the board. The spokesman said: "Once house sales get under way this pulls through in the consumer durables sector."

But the group gave warning that export growth was under threat from exchange rate shifts, with the strong pound likely to have a significant effect not only on its operations, but on the UK economy as a whole.

Glynwed is highly exposed to European currency shifts. Of its £150 million worth of exports, £90 million is destined for Europe. It maintains, however, that the rising pound would not necessarily help its European competitors. A spokesman said the competitors may prefer to raise their prices in order to restore margins squeezed after sterling's free fall after Black Wednesday in 1992.

Nevertheless, Glynwed expects the negative impact of the rising pound on its results to grow in 1997 despite being hedged in the currency markets. In the calendar year 1996, the group's pre-tax profits before exceptionals increased slightly from £84.9 million to £86.4 million. But profits were cut back to £70 million by one-off provisions of £16.3 million. Earnings per share fell to 18p from 25.76p. The dividend was maintained at 12.75p, with the final payment of 8.35p to be made on June 6.

The exceptional charges mainly resulted from provisions totalling £12.5 million for the disposal of Wednesbury Tube, its copper business. The sale was finalised on February 28 and further disposals of non-core units are expected. The group has not made any further provisions so far. At the same time it said it was also looking for "strategic buys".

A further factor limiting profitability during 1996 was the slump in metal prices. Between mid-1995 and mid-1996, prices fell by almost 40 per cent. The spokesman said: "This fall hurt profits in our metals distribution division. However, the division is still comfortably profitable."

The pipe systems division incurred one-off costs of £6 million for the integration of Victaulic and the development and launch of a new international product range.

Graseby seeks healthcare growth

By Paul Durman

GRASEBY, the electronic instruments group increasingly concentrating on drug infusion, is in the market for more healthcare acquisitions.

The company expects to clear its £5.4 million of borrowings through the sale of two small businesses that make infra-red sensors and industrial controls. Paul Lester, Graseby chief executive, is likely to expand the medical division's range of pumps and bags, but would also be interested in closely related areas.

Graseby reported annual pre-tax profits up from £6 million to £10.5 million, its best results for five years. The medical division, strengthened by the 3MIT business bought last July, contributed higher profits of £5 million (£4.2 million) despite weak demand from the National Health Service.

The technology division, which includes Graseby's chemical weapons monitor, increased profits to £3.2 million (£1.4 million). Having recently won £60 million of contracts from the US and Swiss governments, Mr Lester said the group is now bidding for a $400 million contract from the US defence department. The contract, to replace existing monitors with smaller ones, will require Graseby to find a US partner.

The product monitoring division, which made £2.2 million (£3.2 million), is expected to grow slowly but will benefit from cost-cutting. The environmental arm, which saw profits recover to £2.2 million (£1.2 million), may receive a boost from new US legislation. A final dividend of 3.9p, due on May 27, will maintain the total at 6.6p.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Cantab and Glaxo link in vaccine deal

CANTAB PHARMACEUTICALS, the biotechnology company, will receive £11 million from Glaxo Wellcome as part of a deal that gives the drugs group exclusive rights to a potential vaccine against genital herpes. Glaxo Wellcome will bear the development costs and will have exclusive worldwide marketing rights over Cantab's DISC HSV vaccine for herpes simplex virus infections.

As well as a £5 million licence fee, Glaxo Wellcome is paying £6 million for a 4 per cent stake in Cantab — equivalent to a price of 965p a share. Jurek Sikorski, Cantab's chief executive, said this was an endorsement of the company's technology. The HSV vaccine is unlikely to be ready for market until 2002. Cantab will receive royalties on sales, in addition to further milestone payments. Sir Richard Sykes, Glaxo Wellcome's chief executive, said he was "very excited" about DISC HSV, which combines "important safety features with the prospect of considerable therapeutic potency".

World Telecom value set

PETER GELARDY, founder of Jazz FM, will become a paper millionaire next week when World Telecom, a phonecard producer, joins the Alternative Investment Market valued at £32 million. Mr Gelardy will have a £3.87 million stake in World Telecom, the company he founded three years ago with Peter Neilson, marketing director, who will have a stake worth £3.68 million. The company's phonecards for executives travelling overseas will be targeted at a broader market. The shares will be priced at 150p apiece.

NLC issues warning

DEEPENING losses at a Lloyd's underwriting syndicate caused New London Capital, the corporate investment vehicle, to issue a profit warning yesterday. It told investors that consolidated underwriting profits are likely to be in line with or below the Lloyd's market average after Syndicate 657 announced a loss of 41 per cent of capacity. New London, which in December predicted that it would beat the average, had a 7.1 per cent exposure to the syndicate in 1994, the underwriting year that forms the basis for its 1996-97 results.

Lopex names new chief

SHARES of Lopex hit a three-year high as the marketing group returned record underlying profits and named Viscount Chandos as its new chairman. Operating profits rose to £3.4 million (£2.25 million) last year. But a £3.8 million provision for future losses on property rentals turned this into a loss of 2.1p a share. The dividend rises 50 per cent to 0.75p, with a final 0.45p due May 23. Viscount Chandos, who resigned from Chrysalis last October, takes over in May. The shares rose 2p to 28p.

Paterson edges ahead

PATERSON ZOCHONIS, the international trading company behind the Imperial Leather soap brand, reported pre-tax profits of £13.97 million for the six months to November 30, up from £13.19 million previously. Earnings improved to 19.25p a share from 16.81p. The interim dividend is lifted to 5.5p (2.65p), reflecting the intention to redress the balance between interim and final payments. The company expects full-year pre-tax profits similar to the previous year's £29.17 million.

Manders holds dividend

MANDERS, the supplier of printing inks and coatings, is holding the total dividend at 11.5p a share for 1996, after reporting a fall in pre-tax profits from £11.6 million to £5.5 million. The company was affected by fierce price-cutting in the coatings and printing inks markets. Results were also adversely affected by a £1.57 million restructuring charge. Adjusted earnings fell to 10.3p a share, from 21.9p. The final dividend is unchanged at 8.4p.

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P D A Sutch
Chairman, Swire Pacific Limited
Hong Kong, 14th March 1997

HIGHLIGHTS

Profit attributable to shareholders	US$981M	+19%
Investment property portfolio	US$11,595M	+41%
Net assets per share	US$8.15	+41%
Earnings per share	US¢61.9	+19%
Dividends per share	US¢22.7	+11%

Notes:
1. Amounts per share refer to 'A' shares. Entitlements of 'B' shareholders are in proportion 1 to 5 compared with those of 'A' shareholders.
2. All the above figures have been translated from Hong Kong dollars into United States dollars at an exchange rate of US$1 = HK$7.80.
3. Dividends are declared in Hong Kong dollars.

Earlier losses halved

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

1996/97 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
556	407½	Allied Domecq	463½	-½	6.4	14.0
636	477	Bulmer (HP)	634	-2	2.7	18.8
131	63½	Burn Stewart	68½	-2	6.2	72.8
1025	615	Glenmorangie A	1015		1.5	27.6
496	411	Grand Met	490	+1½	4.1	15.8
493	424	Guinness	491½	-8½	4.0	14.9
380	315	Highland Dist	358	-7	2.9	17.3
503	255½	Matthew Clark	319	-2½	9.4	15.2
141	91½	[illegible] W	97½		5.9	13.2
2612½	1375	SA Breweries	1959½	+3½	1.8	

BANKS

1996/97 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
4706¼	2743¾	ABN-AMRO	4337½	-96¾	2.7	17.3
811	528	Abbey Natl	749½	-13	4.4	13.3
455½	315	Allied Irish	428	-5½	4.2	
409½	285	Aus New Z	394		4.8	
7678¾	3843¾	Bank America	7259¾	+118¾		
373½	227½	Bank Scotland	346½	-1	2.6	12.7
1226	683	Barclays†	1097½	-2½	3.6	11.1
635	413	Bk of Ireland	621½	-2	3.3	14.1
7890¾	4031¼	Citicorp	7426	+150		
1721¼	1268¾	Commerzbk	1721¼	+3½	2.6	
1350	608¾	Dai Ichi Kan Y	683¾	+12½	0.6	
3490¾	2709¾	Deutsche Bk	3416¾	+8¾	2.0	
912½	593¾	Espirito Santo	912½		3.8	12.6
1507	600¾	Fuji Bank Y	756½	+40¾	0.0	
1622	931	HSBC†	1535	-6	3.3	13.3
1563½	930	HSBC HK†	1485	-3½	3.5	12.9
605	385	Irish Perm†	605	+10	2.7	
534	294½	Lloyds TSB†	513½	-5	3.2	18.6
819½	588	Nat Aust Bk	795	-4	5.4	10.3
844½	605½	Nat West†	711½	-15	5.1	10.7
632½	454	Ryl Bk Scot	563	-5	4.2	12.2
900½	547	Stand Chartt	844	+10½	2.1	15.1
£174¾	£131¾	Wells Fargo	£164¾		2.0	
374¾	264	Westpac	354	-3½	4.0	11.0

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	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS				
01203 553 231				
General Acc	737.50	784.60	..	2.28
General Inc	611.00	650.10	..	2.28
Uk Growth Acc	511.90	544.60	...	2.39
UK Growth Inc	331.20	352.40	.	2.39
Higher Inc Acc	914.50	972.90		3.82
Higher Inc Inc	487.20	518.30	..	3.82
Gilts/Fxd Int Acc	216.90	279.10		5.47
Gilts/Fxd Int Inc	92.71	97.92		5.47
Nth America	376.30	400.40	.	
Europe	407.30	433.30		0.19
Brit Excell	100.80	107.30		2.51
Brit Fdmntls Acc	128.60	136.90	..	4.51
Brit Fdmntls Inc	84.82	90.24		4.51
Global Opps	107.00	113.90		2.40
Balanced Acc	67.66	72.01		2.40
Balanced Inc	63.19	67.23	...	
Japan Acc	37.53	39.93		..
Pac Basin Acc	403.30	429.00	.	0.84
ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS				
0345 717 373				
Gilts & Fixed Int	132.50	140.60†	- 0.90	6.78
High Inc Equity	199.50	213.40	- 1.60	4.45
Worldwide Bond	271.40	287.80†	- 0.50	4.17
American Growth	433.50	463.30	- 0.60	0.36
Asian Pacific	336.70	360.10	- 1.00	0.38
Assets & Earnings	328.10	350.90	- 2.10	2.69
Euro Capital Acc	207.70	222.10	- 3.40	0.71
Extra Inc	42.65	45.58†	- 0.19	4.03
General	294.80	313.60†	- 2.50	2.89
Global Opps	75.78	80.62	- 0.51	0.50
Japan	89.73	95.43	+ 1.33	
Managed Inc	49.71	52.88†	- 0.34	4.25
Mastertrust	178.40	190.80	- 0.30	1.26
US Emerging Cos	187.10	199.00	- 2.80	
Ethical	90.27	96.03	- 0.53	1.63
International	141.90	151.00	- 0.80	0.58
Dividend & Growth	73.44	78.13	- 0.64	4.30
Global Gth & Sec	75.00	80.18	- 0.08	2.52
Latin America	82.74	88.02	- 0.74	0.44
Capital Reserve	148.10	148.20	+ 0.10	4.60
ABBEY NATIONAL UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0141 275 9500				
N&P UK Growth	98.47	104.70	- 0.75	2.30
Equity Income	138.60	147.40	- 1.30	4.11
Extra Income	287.60	306.60	- 2.00	6.34
Smaller Cos	116.40	123.80†	- 0.50	1.45
International	119.10	126.60	+ 0.80	1.36
ABERFORTH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0131 220 0733				

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Pacific Portfolio	165.80	178.29	- 1.19	0.74
UK Equity	105.02	112.96	- 0.87	3.12
UK Equity & Bd	61.52	65.20	- 0.53	6.12
UK Smlr Cos	56.96	59.86†	- 0.35	1.58
CBF CHURCH OF ENGLAND FUNDS				
0171 588 1815				
Inv Fund	838.86	851.54		4.04
Fxd Int Sec	150.40	150.04	.	8.99
COIF CHARITY FUNDS				
0171 588 1815				
Investment Inc	832.43	845.01	.	4.07
Investment Acc	138.86	139.45	.	..
Fixed Int Inc	130.70	131.22	.	8.84
Fixed Int Acc	243.43	244.41	...	..
CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD				
0171 407 5966				
Beckman Intl	89.24	94.06	.	5.33
Beck Bio-Tech	45.36	49.29		..
Acorn Ethical Tst	192.92	202.58		0.42
City Fin Assets	85.08	89.34		1.73
City Fin Intl	92.80	97.45		0.13
Friars Hse Cap	332.95	354.21		2.24
Buckley Wrld Gth	145.00	153.70†	..	
J Sld Inc/Gth Inc	61.67	64.76	..	3.21
Shaw Utilities	65.73	67.20	- 0.79	6.59
CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0171 711 0771 Admin: 01277 227 300				
Emerging Markets	61.08	64.81†	+ 0.22	
CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD				
0345 772 233				
American Gwth	84.11	89.48	+ 0.08	..
Dragon Growth	73.49	78.59	- 0.44	0.37
Equity High Inc	99.04	106.09†	- 1.03	3.62
-do- Accum	145.19	156.53	- 1.51	3.62
Extra Income Inc	27.17	28.62	- 0.13	7.04
Extra Income Acc	30.33	31.94	- 0.16	7.04
European Gwth	69.26	73.49	- 1.03	0.44
Evergreen	32.27	34.51	- 0.40	
General Equity	115.48	122.52	- 1.13	2.59
Japan Growth	37.90	40.32	+ 0.79	.
Pedigree Gwth	69.46	74.41	- 0.58	2.07
Ped Sm Cos Inc	41.35	44.46	- 0.17	1.04
-do- Accum	44.08	47.40	- 0.18	1.04
Retirement Inc #	30.17	32.13	- 0.28	5.58
Special Sits	50.85	54.68	- 0.37	2.53
Uk & Overseas	63.92	67.82	- 0.25	0.60
COLONIAL UNIT TRUSTS (UK) LTD				
01634 898 000				
Balanced	74.70	77.81†	- 0.74	3.86
Capital	90.40	94.16†	- 0.69	2.43

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
-do- Accum	304.50	216.40	- 2.20	4.96
MGM UNIT MANAGERS LTD				
Dealing: 01277 261 010 Enq: 01903 204 631				
European Growth	111.49	118.60	- 1.36	0.50
Intl Bond	63.66	67.08	- 0.22	4.74
Intl Equity Growth	89.41	95.01	- 0.10	0.61
N Amer Growth	154.70	164.40†	- 0.68	0.78
Special Sits Growth	30.82	32.70†	- 0.25	2.04
Uk Growth	505.53	538.86	- 4.02	2.46
-do- Accum	698.47	744.11	- 5.55	2.46
MW JOINT INVESTORS LTD				
01630 825867				
Balanced Fd #	1525.40	1546.20		3.20
Income #	1092.80	1109.20	.	4.50

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Socius Value Gwth	116.40	122.70	- 1.00	1.72
Hy S Europe	111.00	118.60	- 1.40	1.91
Slater Gwth	208.80	222.70	- 0.10	0.80
New Japan	78.71	83.06	+ 0.70	
JUPITER UT MGRS LTD				
0171 581 3020				
World Health	213.20	226.80	- 2.90	...
Income #	246.24	261.95	- 1.28	3.96
UK Growth	95.77	101.88	- 0.81	1.82
Intl Growth	92.83	98.75†	+ 0.47	0.57
Ecology	112.77	119.98	- 1.21	0.87
European	233.63	248.54	- 1.99	0.20
Far Eastern	315.80	335.90	+ 1.00	..
UK Special Sits	61.16	65.23	- 0.53	0.37
Fd of Inv Tsts	57.10	60.90	- 0.19	.
High Income #	55.83	59.55	- 0.29	4.70

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Legal & General
Investment Management

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
KLEINWORT BENSON UNIT TRUSTS				
Dealers: 0171 956 7354				
Income Trusts				
Bond Income	101.90	105.40†	- 0.50	6.91
Euro Prv Inc	112.50	119.70	- 1.00	2.75
-do- Accum	112.50	119.70	- 1.00	2.75
Gilt Yield	119.70	126.20†	- 0.20	6.41
Global Income	247.50	263.30†	- 0.10	3.03
High Yield	172.90	183.90	- 1.50	5.07
-do- Accum	577.40	614.30	- 5.00	5.07
Money Market	99.15	99.15†	+ 0.01	5.39
Smlr Cos Div	67.47	71.78†	- 0.39	3.60
Tomorrows Co Ex Acc	10.370	10.510	- 0.10	.

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
MALDON UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0131 222 4242				
Maldon General	183.20	187.20	.	3.31
MARKS & SPENCER UNIT TRUST LTD				
0800 363432				
M & S Inv Ptolo	189.90	195.80	- 0.70	2.31
-do- Accum	227.60	234.70	- 0.80	2.31
Uk Sel Ptolo	171.00	176.30	1.40	2.34
-do- Accum	208.20	214.70	- 1.60	2.34
UK 100 Cos	128.40	128.40†	- 0.90	2.44
-do- Accum	131.70	131.70†	- 0.90	2.44
MARLBOROUGH FUND MGRS LTD				

هكذا من الاعلانات

MARCH 19 1997

La Crème de la Crème

Tel: 0171 680 6806 Fax: 0171 782 7586

Are you unflappable, well-organised with highly developed secretarial skills?

If so, could you come and cover for a senior secretary who is going to cover a higher graded job for at least three months. This could result in a permanent vacancy but initially is a temporary post.

Senior Personal Assistant/Secretary

- to Human Resources Director

c. £20,000 +
attractive benefits

The job is secretary to the Director of Human Resources at London Transport. This is a busy post where you will be part of a team, working as personal secretary to the Director in a department of 350+ people. You will co-ordinate her diary, prepare papers and organise the filing system and play a high-profile role in the day-to-day management of the department. Hopefully as you get used to the systems you will deal with day-to-day matters yourself and enjoy the hustle and bustle of a busy, demanding environment, where you will often need to work on your own initiative and convey an atmosphere of calm and tranquillity - even when the pressure is on and you have a hundred things to complete before lunch!

If you are an experienced secretary, with good computer skills (Microsoft Office, Excel and Powerpoint), highly developed communication and personal organisation skills and a positive attitude to work and customers, please let us know.

Initially give Sue Gardner a ring on 0171 918 4874 who will talk to you about the job. Please quote reference CDV531/E.

Closing date for applications: 26 March 1997.

London Transport

Working Towards Equality

FROM SECRETARY TO RECRUITMENT SPECIALIST

ATTRACTIVE PACKAGE **READING**

The world's leading software company is looking for a talented and confident administrator to co-ordinate the recruitment process for the HR team and Microsoft business units in the UK. This is a dynamic and fast-changing business involving tight deadlines, competing priorities and a demanding workload.

A strong team-player, IT-literate and with excellent communication skills, you will flourish in an environment which fosters personal initiative as well as high professional standards. Enthusiastic, flexible and assertive, your energy and keen intellect will enable you to hit the ground running.

In return we offer a competitive salary plus bonus and excellent benefits. If you have experience or an interest in the human resources arena, this opportunity represents a very exciting career move indeed.
Could you leap from secretary to recruitment specialist in one go?
Please fax your cv to our retained consultants, Janette Teager & Associates, Human Resource Management Consultants, on 0181-847 5208, or telephone 0181-568 5516.

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Team Secretary

London EC1 *£17,025 - £19,599 plus benefits*

The Post Office is a unique organisation - a highly commercial group of specialist businesses with a turnover of more than £5 billion, and a track record of success in both the UK and worldwide.

We are now looking for an accomplished and responsible Team Secretary to provide full secretarial support to the Group Financial Controller and finance team.

You will be liaising with senior level managers and directors on a day-to-day basis. Organising diaries and arranging meetings, you will also be providing administrative support for Post Office Board Committees, as well as preparing Powerpoint presentations and reports to tight deadlines.

You must have excellent secretarial skills, including word processing (Word for Windows), audio typing, and, ideally, shorthand. A good knowledge of Powerpoint, and some experience of Excel would be an advantage. You should have excellent organisational and planning skills, and be a confident communicator. In addition, you should be able to maintain a high level of efficiency, courtesy and integrity at all times, and be flexible about your hours of work.

Please send your CV and a covering letter to Nicola Treseder, POSG Personnel, 2nd Floor, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ, or telephone 0171 250 2469. The closing date for applications is 9th April 1997.

The Post Office is an Equal Opportunities Employer. Suitably qualified applicants with disabilities will be shortlisted.

INVESTOR IN PEOPLE THE POST OFFICE POSITIVE ABOUT DISABLED PEOPLE

BORED SECRETARIES.

If you are looking for an opportunity to move away from secretarial, join Foxton's Property Management Department. Run your own Property Management section taking responsibility for 100 properties or more, in a progressive fast moving organisation. Must be well educated, hard working, have a great sense of humour, sound comp skills, a will to learn, car driver. Salary £18K-£22K.

Tel:0171 373 5533.

DIRECTORS SECRETARY

West End Commercial Surveyors

A well educated, organised & experienced secretary is required to work with two Directors. Understanding of Word for Windows is essential and a knowledge of Access Database and Excel Spreadsheets an advantage.

The ideal candidate will be over 25 and a non-smoker. Salary £20,000 - £22,500.

Please reply with CV to
Wilkinson Williams,
9 Park Place,
London SW1A 1LP.

ENTHUSIATIC AND SELF-MOTIVATED SECRETARY

For two principals of busy commercial property practice. She will be cheerful, age 25-40ish, n/smoker, have good telephone manner and fast and accurate WP skills (WP5.1/MSWord).
Salary c. 18K.

Fax CV on 0171 723 3553 attention of David Blair

SECRETARY/ADMIN MAYFAIR

Property finance and investment company seek capable all-rounder with good working knowledge of W4W to support team of 6, supervise junior and keep office organised.

£16-18K (possibly more if some SAGE experience).

Contact Richard on 0171-409-3080 or write to me at 82 Park St.
W1Y 3HQ.

Managing Director's PA
Management Team Secretary
Office Administrator
London SW7

Telia UK is a wholly owned subsidiary of Telia AB the national telecommunications company of Sweden and provides telecommunications solutions for small and medium sized companies in the UK. Founded on Swedish business values, encompassing high ethical integrity and employee participation in running the business, we are enjoying a period of well-founded and profitable growth in a highly competitive market place.

We now need to fill three key roles to complete our current phase of organisational development. We need a mature PA for our Managing Director. The ideal candidate will be able to demonstrate significant achievement in a similar role, have English as a mother tongue and an excellent level of written and spoken Swedish.

Reporting to our Managing Director is a small highly focused Management Team of four who now also require an experienced Secretary. We need a team player with initiative and excellent organisational skills to work in a fast moving, customer focused environment.

We also need an Office Administrator reporting to the Finance Manager to plan and organise the day-to-day operations of our very busy office, working closely with our Facilities Manager, Customer Care and IT Support Groups.

The office style is a totally 'hands on, no nonsense, no politics' teamwork based approach to doing a challenging and exciting job in a calm and thoroughly professional manner. Ideal candidates will therefore be experienced, self reliant, energetic, flexible, and tenacious with a good sense of humour! Organisational skills, the ability to influence, and excellent knowledge of Microsoft Office / Windows 3.11 are taken for granted. Salaries and benefits are competitive.

Please post, fax or e-mail your CV with a covering letter stating your earnings, career aspirations and key career achievements to Telia's Response Manager, Tony Alton, quoting reference 2457 at Lansdowne, Rosedale House, Rosedale Road, Richmond, Surrey TW9 2SZ.
Fax: 0181 332 6902
e-mail: lansdowne@dial.pipex.com

Telia is an equal opportunity employer.

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Leading Business Communications

PARTNERS' SECRETARY

Salary c£18,000 + benefits available

Fed up with large firms? Have property experience? Min 70wpm audio typing and W4W? - Join our small but lively and busy office of Investment Surveyors.

Send a CV with covering letter to:

Miss Joanna Munro
Hoddell Stotesbury, 115 Mount Street,
London, W1Y 5HD

Strictly no agencies please.

PROGRAMME OFFICER/ADMINISTRATION ASSISTANT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANISATION

A bright, energetic and efficient person is required with good secretarial skills to work in a small busy office. The ability to work in a team is essential. The job involves providing secretarial/administrative support and assisting with the organisation of international conferences (international travel may be involved), follow-up of programmes and general day-to-day running of the office. The ideal candidate would have accurate typing skills(50wpm), excellent organisational and communication skills, plenty of initiative and be computer literate. Knowledge of Word would be an advantage.

Salary dependent on experience.

Apply in writing with CV to: Hon. Treasurer,

ACOPS, 11 Dartmouth Street,London SW1H 9BN
Deadline 28/3/1997

SHORTHAND SECRETARY REQUIRED

Must have 60/100 wpm.
If you enjoy working in a fast moving environment, have initiative, stamina and drive, we may have just the job for you.
Salary aae.
CVs to: Mary Lamprell,
49 Marylebone High Street, W1M 4ED.

EXPERIENCED SECRETARY

Urgently required for multinational Aerospace company, Central London office. Experienced Secretary to work for two Executives. Must be adaptable and capable of working under pressure. Computer literacy to include Spreadsheets, Graphics and E-Mail. Excellent Salary

G.I.C. Consultants. Tel: 01252 783465 Fax: 01252 782617.

Egon
Zehnder
International

A leading international executive search firm seeks

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY/PA

in prestigious location in Mayfair.
Excellent salary + annual bonus

We are looking for a secretary who

- wants to work on a one-to-one basis with highly qualified consultants
- wants to work reasonable hours (9 - 5.30) in a very convenient location (by Green Park underground station)
- has excellent secretarial skills - 70wpm typing, good telephone manner, very well organised working methods.
- has an ability to communicate effectively, professionally and confidentially with very senior clients and candidates.
- is self-confident and mature, and has worked in a professional team environment.
- has a proven track record and excellent references

Please send your CV and letter explaining why you should like to work with us to Julia Stocken, Egon Zehnder International, Devonshire House, Mayfair Place, London W1X 5PH.

BIIBA

MEMBER SUPPORT UNIT

Five vacancies Salary £18,000 plus benefits City based

The British Insurance and Investment Brokers' Association (BIIBA) is a national trade association which represents over 2500 member firms throughout the UK and provides a range of representational and commercial services. Insurance broking is a rapidly developing business and BIIBA is changing to meet these challenges.

Central to the new way of working and crucial to the future success of BIIBA is the establishment of a 5 strong Member Support Unit. This unit will be the initial point of contact for all services to members and must be staffed by highly professional, skilled and committed people.

Applicants must possess strong organisational, administrative and communication skills, and be experienced in using word processing, spreadsheet and presentation packages. They must enjoy dealing with people and be able to present a professional, confident and friendly image to members and to the public. Applicants must also have a well rounded educational background with a minimum of five "O" level (or equivalent) passes including English and Maths.

A knowledge of the insurance industry, and a background of working in a public relations or customer service environment would be an advantage. Candidates must be able to demonstrate enthusiasm, commitment, an ability to work on their own initiative and a desire to succeed.

For a job description and details of how to apply contact Lesley Mackay on 0171 397 0221. E Mail: mackay1@biiba.org.uk Internet address: http://www.biiba.org.uk

Closing date for applications: Friday 18 April 1997.

We are a national firm of solicitors providing a range of services to a variety of clients throughout England and Wales. We are presently seeking in our London office to recruit a:

Legal Secretary to Equity Partner - Criminal Department

You will ideally have over 3/4 years experience in Criminal work and have worked on a one-to-one basis.

PI Float Secretaries

You will ideally have over two years experience in Criminal experience and have fast, accurate audio typing skills preferably Wordperfect 5.1. You will need to possess sound admin experience as well as excellent organisational and communication skills.

Please apply in the first instance with a cv and cover letter stating your current salary and day time contact number to: *Julia Brace, Personnel Officer, Russell Jone & Walker, Swinton House, 324 Grays Inn Road, London WC1X 8DH.*

Closing date: 2nd April 1997.

Leading business school has the following vacancies:

1. **P.A to Directors (18k-£22k)**
2. **General Administrator (£16k-£18k)**
3. **Secretaries (£16k-£18k)**
4. **Office Junior (£12k-£14k)**

Please write to: Head of School, School of Finance and Management, 179-191 Borough High Street, London SE1 1HR.

CHELSEA, SW10
Salary £15,500 + benefits
Perfect 2nd job

We are looking for a young, bright, cheerful and lively assistant secretary to join our small but very friendly company located in stunning offices in the heart of Chelsea. Your enthusiasm and ability to play as a team member will be rewarded and appreciated. Experience on W4W and good typing would be an added bonus. Rusty shorthand or speedwriting would be useful, but is not essential.

For more information please call:
Louisa Bateman, 0171 376 5437

PA/OFFICE MANAGER

c. £20 - 24,000

An established Corporate Finance House based in Central London requires an outgoing and experienced Office Manager to control a small professional group. Wide range of responsibilities with significant opportunity to develop career in expanding international company

To apply write with a c.v. to: LMI Associates, Eagle Court, 6-7 St. John's Lane, London EC1M 4BH

LMI ASSOCIATES LTD.
Consultants in Search and Selection

PA/SECRETARY
to Managing Director

International travel magazine based in Bayswater, part of a major PLC, requires a top PA to assist its Managing Director.

The ideal candidate will be outgoing, well organised and enjoy interacting with colleagues. Previous experience of working at a senior level and the ability to work on your own is essential. Must be computer literate and shorthand would be an advantage.

The right person will earn £20k+.

Please apply in writing enclosing full CV stating current salary to Cheryl Davey, Business Traveller magazine, Compass House, 22 Redan Place, London W2 4SZ. tel 0171 229 7799, fax 0171 229 2191.

PERSONAL ASSISTANT/BOOK-KEEPER

Two Partners, Holborn Circus based, trading company require a capable and organised person to take over all aspects of running a busy office. Computer literacy and some book-keeping experience would be an advantage. Typing skills required for invoices and correspondence although accuracy will serve you better than speed.

This close-knit office needs someone with a sense of humour to make a real contribution.

Salary £15,000 + NEG.

Please Reply to Box No 3899

SECRETARY/PA

Chief Executive of rapidly expanding company specialising in healthcare seeks bright, enthusiastic Secretary/P.A. to work at Head Office in W2. If you have a minimum of 5 years experience (including Director level) with skills including Word for Windows and Powerpoint, are aged 28+ with a friendly personality and have the ability to work under pressure and good organisational skills, please reply with your C.V. and a covering letter to: Tamaris plc, 15 Albion Street, London W2 2AS, by Wednesday 2 April 1997.

OFFICE MANAGER - INTERNET COMPANY

Based in Blackheath London, working in a highly co-operative and friendly atmosphere.

We are looking for an experienced, responsible person who can confidently run: office administration and infrastructure support, health and safety, staff leave and attendance control, some PA tasks to the directors, reception duties.

Reporting to the operations director you need to be intelligent, organised, able to work under tight deadlines and with a cool head when under pressure. You will quickly develop a small team, so people management skills would be an advantage. Internet knowledge is not required but familiarity with a PC and office applications is a necessity.

Please send your CV to: Julian Hayward, Direct Connection, 1 Tranquil Vale, London SE3 0BU.

UNFLAPPABLE PA TO CHAIRMAN...

...required for an interesting international business based in EC1. This challenging position demands an intelligent, quick thinking, flexible PA with lots of initiative who would be happy working in a small office (no prima-donnas please). We are looking for someone who has excellent organisational & secretarial skills (inc s/h 100wpm & WP 5.1/Win) & is resilient, hardworking, loyal & discreet, aged 25-40.

Salary AAE: Please reply with CV & covering letter to Box No 3673 (no agencies)

PA/RESEARCHER

Required by MD of small International Trading Co based close to Baker St station.
Must be flexible, numerate, articulate, audio typing (60wpm).
Non smoker.
£16,000 plus bonus.
Phone Tricia Rootes
0171 724 7345.
(NO AGENCIES)

SECRETARY WEST END.

2 Directors in this architectural and building surveying company are looking for a flexible secretary with good audio and Word to organise them in this busy residential and community department. Excel and powerpoint an advantage.
State salary req.

Send CV to: Hunter & Partners, 25 North Row, London, W1R 1DJ

NEWCHURCH & COMPANY

JUNIOR SECRETARY

(£15,000 - £16,000)

Newchurch & Company is an innovative and respected provider of financial and strategic advice to senior managers and policy makers in social businesses, in particular the NHS. We employ 37 people.

We currently require a secretary to work on the Managing Director's client projects, working to him and his project Consultants, assisting in producing reports and presentations. You will also provide cover to our other support staff, including the Marketing Department.

The ideal candidate is likely to be educated to 'A' level standard, have a secretarial college background and be looking for their first or second job. We are seeking an enthusiastic and energetic individual, with excellent secretarial skills including typing (60wpm), audio, a good working knowledge of computers and Word and Power Point applications.

Applications, with a full c.v. by 2nd April 1997 to:
Samantha Marr,
Newchurch & Company Limited,
24 Britton Street, London EC1M 5NQ.

Membership Secretary for VIP travellers' club, WEXAS International, Knightsbridge

We are Europe's leading travel club with a VIP frequent traveller base of some 3,500 members. As part of the commercial team, your role in dealing with prospective and existing members, will require well developed communication and strong administrative skills including IT literacy. Well educated, you are likely to be well travelled, possess a high degree of personal credibility and in your late 20's. Additional to an excellent salary, we offer profit related pay, private medical and permanent health insurance together with discounted travel facilities. Applications and full CV's should be forwarded to arrive no later than 2nd April and addressed to: Gordon Mowatt, Commercial Manager, WEXAS International, 45-49 Brompton Road, London SW3 1DE. 0171 589 3315.

WEXAS

ROYAL COLLEGE OF OBSTETRICIANS AND GYNAECOLOGISTS
REGENT'S PARK

SECRETARY TO HEAD OF EXAMINATION DEPARTMENT

£15,647 per annum plus benefits

The College is a membership organisation concerned with standards of training, education and examinations in the medical speciality of obstetrics and gynaecology.

We need an experienced secretary to work for the Head of the Examination Department. The duties include transcription of audio so quality word processing skills are required for Microsoft Word. The person appointed will also help with the administrative and secretarial work in assessing the eligibility of candidates who wish to sit the Membership examination of the College. Attention to detail is therefore extremely important.

The College is located near Baker Street and offers excellent working conditions with a friendly team and a package that includes incremental salary scales, free lunches, pension scheme, interest free season ticket loans and generous leave entitlement.

For details and an application form please telephone Mrs K Dawson, quoting reference number EXAM1, on 0171 772 6238. Closing date for receipt of applications Thursday, 27 March 1997.
(Registered charity number 213280)

PASSIONATE ABOUT ITALY?

Specialist Chelsea Tour Operator requires versatile PA for the Director of their Italian programme. Position involves secretarial duties, day to day programme administration and product research. Good knowledge of Italy and fluent Italian essential, a knowledge of marketing advantageous, salary a.a.e. Position might suit someone based near Wiltshire/Glos borders.
Write with full CV to Patricia Cookson, CV Travel, 43 Cadogan Street, London SW3 2PR.

Senior Partner's Secretary - Solicitors

Interesting and varied work with emphasis on Commercial Property, in forward looking well equipped West End Firm. Ability to work accurately under pressure (but always with humour) with initiative and responsibility as part of a team.

Top salary for top person.
(No Agencies)

Portner and Jaskel	Tel: 0171 486 7881
8 Welbeck Way	Fax: 0171 935 0500
London W1M 8NB	Att: Harvey Jaskel

CREME DE LA CREME

Marketing and Sales Secretary
to £16,000 (City)

This is a great opening to join a growing company supporting two young managers. Your day will be varied and busy, producing presentations and reports, arranging travel and accommodation. This organisation will give masses of opportunity to someone who has the ability to be proactive and use their own initiative. Skills: 50wpm/ Windows/ Excel Age: 20-30. Please call Sam Garner on 0171 390 7000

Crone Corkill
Recruitment Consultants

Graduate Opportunity
c.£17,000 plus bonus

This is a one-off opportunity for a recent graduate with secretarial skills to gain experience with a small but leading City fund management firm. Based in fantastic offices, you will be initially based on reception gaining front line exposure to all clients and situations and then developing your role taking on more involved duties and progressing within the company depending on available opportunities. Age: 21-26. Skills: 45wpm typing/strong IT skills. Please call Claire Ashley on 0171 390 7000.

Crone Corkill
Recruitment Consultants

Moving On Up
£18-20K + Fab Bens
West End

Large international firm of management consultants seek senior secretarial assistants to join their dynamic team. You will have good knowledge of Windows, combined with a strong sense of team responsibility as well as a real eye for detail and boundless enthusiasm. The job content is interesting and diverse with the opportunity to become totally involved. A minimum of 5 GCSE's at C grade and the attitude to succeed are the key. Please contact Susanna Hargreaves on 0171 434 4512.

Crone Corkill
Recruitment Consultants

MEDIA RELATIONS
Accounts Assistant
£20000 WC2

'Down-to-earth' - unusual for a successful PR company. If you are too and you enjoy frequent contact with 'blue chip' clients, you're highly organised and well-educated, this is an excellent career move. It's not all glamour, of course - there's still typing, organising travel, diaries etc. Age to late 20's.

MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS
£18-25 neg SW1

Our client is an influential international management consultancy, a market leader with the highest standards. They need 3 exceptional admin assistants - committed, computer literate team players with flexible, 'can-do' attitudes and deadly accurate 60wpm. How do you measure up?

PLEASE CALL 0171 373 7779
JIGSAW
RECRUITMENT

Belle

8 Staple Inn London WC1V 7QH
Tel: 0171 404 4655 Fax: 0171 831 7581

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANT
£15,000-£18,000 pa

We are an established independent Secretarial Consultancy with a growing list of first-rate clients. The recruitment team is highly experienced and results-oriented. The atmosphere is informal yet business-like and we seek an additional Consultant with similar qualities.

You should be an experienced Consultant with a proven track record and enjoy the buzz of handling a professional team of temps. (Initially maternity cover). Benefits include profit share, PPP, a lovely location and a dynamic, happy environment.

Please contact Hilary Watts in confidence to discuss.

WORLD OF INTERIORS
£12-£15,000

1st or 2nd job? The opportunity has arisen for someone with an interest in the World of Interiors to work as Secretary/Receptionist within this very prestigious and well-connected company based in SW3. Using your finely tuned office skills you will be *meeting* Interior Designers and their Clients, putting together quotes and correspondence, arranging flowers, couriers - anything! An excellent training ground to learn about small but expanding business. -/40 + Windows. Age 20-25.

TRUE GRADUATE ASSISTANT
£18,000

UK President of High-Growth International Media Corporation needs highly motivated Assistant/ Project Co-ordinator intent on a career in Media. He offers 100% involvement - you could be attending meetings, researching into *major* projects, policy formatting - as part of a much wider, global Organisation. An interest in the Far East/Asia useful, must have keyboard skills and be computer literate. Age 22-25.

CHELSEA COMMUTING!
£18,- £20,000

End all that hassle with crowds, tubes, buses etc, and come to work in the fresh leafy streets of Chelsea and Kensington amongst their attractive houses and in their calm village atmospheres. This prestigious, privately owned Estate Agency in SW3 need a PA to organise their highly successful Head of Sales. Sense of humour and self-confidence essential! Aged 25-35. -/60. No Audio!

EXECUTIVE SELECTION!
£23,000 + Bonus

A fabulous opportunity has arisen for a PA/Administrator with at least 2 years experience to join this Int'l, Blue-Chip firm of Executive Selection Consultants. Based in W1 you will work alongside 2 successful and likeable Consultants - manage their diaries, coordinate meetings, put together reports, correspondance, liaise in depth with clients and candidates - anticipate their needs and as a result get totally involved. -/60, Windows + Powerpoint. Age 23-28. Low secretarial content!

TEMPORARIES!

Help!! Due to expansion we urgently need experienced Receptionists, Secretaries, PA's who would enjoy temping for our clients in the West End, Chelsea and the City. Without exception our Temporary Bookings are treated like Permanent Jobs - we get you work, but work where you feel you fit in, coupled with competitive rates of pay. For more information please ring Diana Anderson.

ANDERSON HOARE
0171 824 8821

Enjoy temping! Want to earn money, find the right permanent job or increase your career prospects?

With Crone Corkill and AIR MILES it's easy!

Our friendly, helpful team of Consultants has lots of opportunities for secretaries with 60+ wpm typing and good windows packages. We'll give you the best hourly rates AND we're the only agency to give all our temps AIR MILES awards.

Make your assets take you further - call our Temp Desk NOW and get your career off to a flying start.

Together we'll get you there!

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Crone Corkill
Temporary Recruitment

SLOANE ST TO £16,000

Secretary for varied role in young ind co. initiative & flexiblity & good typing helpful.

Mrs Prosser
0171 259 6999
Beauchamp Bureau

CRUISE THE MED
£EX. TAX FREE

2 fabulous opps. to join super young team on prestigious lux. liner.

1) Asst. ships purser. Must have either hotel/ front line recept. exp + keybrd skills. Mid April start.

2) Pub. sec/Applemac op/ Quark/Adobe/Photoshop. 2 month contract. Mid April- Mid June.

0171 493 5122
Venture Plus Personnel

DIRECTORS' TEMPORARIES

We require more good temporaries at up to £10 per hour. Age: 25-40.

0171 629 9323

DIRECTORS' SECRETARIES

£20-22,000 OPPORTUNITIES FOR TEAM PLAYERS

in a large firm of Management Consultants. Good secretarial and organisational skills, working knowledge of Powerpoint or similar Desk Top Publishing package. These positions offer involvement in projects and the opportunity to be a valued member of a team working with the consultants. You need to be flexible, an achiever and committed...

...please call Caroline on 0171 499 5881
Adecco Elite (Rec Cons)
16 Lansdowne Row,
Berkeley Sq., London W1X 7LN

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HOBSTONES

Mad March Temping! Upto £10 per hour

Every year during March, the Hobstones temp Team has a mad rush of bookings to cover late winter holidays and early Spring breaks!

To help us meet this demand and to prepare for a busy Summer of temping, join the team without delay.

If you have 50 wpm typing, good Windows knowledge and ideally Spreadsheets/DTP too, we would love to hear from you NOW

City Consultants: Victoria and Gillian 0171 550 7000
West End Consultants: Liz, Holly and Alexa 0171 437 6032

RECRUITMENT

ARE YOU A CREATIVE CREATURE?

As media secretarial specialists we can offer you a world of exciting opportunities

- from the Arts, publishing, broadcasting, marketing, PR and music

If you are a good PA or Secretary with a professional attitude, we'll find you a job you'll be sad to leave!

Salary range £10,000 - £25,000+

TEL: 0171 499 6566
FAX: 0171 493 6320

GROSVENOR BUREAU

FINANCE PA
Fashion Co, Fulham.
C£19,000 p.a. + bens.

Pa req with exp working for an Finance Director or similar. W4W and Excel ess. Age 28-35.

Call Wendy urgently on 0171-420 8088 (Fax 0171 420 8044)

LA CREME
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS
TELEPHONE 0171 420 8088

MARY HOLLAND ASSOCIATES
CAREER CONSULTANTS

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P.R. Asst. £22k + Package
Trading Floor Sec. £25K + Package
Personnel Clerk. £22k + Package
Personnel Asst. £22k + Package
Brokers Asst/Sec. £23k + Package
Sales Asst/SFA preferred. £28k + Package
PERMANENT, CONTRACT & TEMPORARY
Tel: 0171 726 4132 Fax: 0171 796 4887
Mary Holland Associates, Career Consultants
Plaisterer's Court, 1 London Wall, London EC2Y 5EA

City Secretarial Opportunities
£14K - £24K + Huge Benefits
Evening Interviews Available

A steady CV and good secretarial skills are all you need to join the growing number of secretaries earning big bucks and living it up in the City! We have openings with some of the biggest names offering paid overtime and lovely people! (80wpm Shorthand, 50 wpm Typing, Word for Windows and Excel if possible). Call Anna now for an immediate interview.

Huge Salary - Huge Benefits
Young Team Secretary
West End Finance House

Are you looking for your 2nd secretarial job? Do you have advanced PowerPoint with good Excel and Word for Windows? Would you like to work in stunning offices in the heart of the West End? This role boasts variety, challenge and a strong creative dimension, whilst supporting 2 dynamic Associates. Call Corrina to hear more.

Marketing Assistant/Secretary
To £18K + Benefits

Happy? Personable? Positive and Enthusiastic? Are you resilient enough to work with a team of varying personalities within a leading, expanding, international rating agency based close to Liverpool Street? Would you enjoy a varied role and enjoy the luxury of having your own office? Yes? Then please call Deborah for an IMMEDIATE interview.

MARCH INTO SPRING- GIVE US A RING!

* TEMPS - TEMPS - TEMPS - TEMPS *

Are you fed up of sitting at home waiting for your agency to call? We have immediate bookings in the West End and the City that must be filled! We will not penalise you for enrolling with other agencies but we will reward you for your loyalty. Our temps enjoy the following benefits:

- Excellent rates of pay
- Opportunity to win cash prizes of £1000.
- Temp to Perm opportunities
- Paid holidays
- 52 weeks of work per year

So if you have excellent audio and/or shorthand skills, a knowledge of Windows packages and are aged between 20-40, call us today and start work tomorrow.

PAN EUROPEAN
RECRUITMENT

TEL: 0171 734 8484
FAX: 0171 734 8501

Hays Banking Personnel
SECRETARIAL DIVISION

TEAM SECRETARY
City — Up to £18,000 + Benefits

Excellent opportunity for bright, ambitious secretary (2 years' work experience required, finance industry preferred) to develop their potential with this expanding European Consumer Technology department of a major international bank. If you type 50wpm+, have proficiency in W4W, Excel and Powerpoint, are reliable and keen to get ahead... call now for immediate interview.

0171 256 5798

SENIOR SECRETARY
City — £20-£24,000 + Benefits

Major player require Senior Secretary for Corporate Finance department of a well known European Investment Bank. Excellent organisational skills for this involved role. Duties include managing diaries, tracking expenses, preparing marketing material, and database management (experience of Lotus Notes a must!) Interviews to be arranged immediately with opportunities within neighbouring departments also.

Call 0171 256 5798

TRADING FLOOR SECRETARY
City — £10.00 p/hr

Our client, a prestigious American Bank, is seeking an energetic and bright secretary who will thrive in a busy, demanding environment. The role will involve supporting a team of derivatives traders including telephone work, arranging travel and meetings, producing weekly reports and sending faxes. Ideal candidate will have experience in a similar position and flexible approach to hours. This is an ongoing temporary position with a view to permanency.

Call 0171 638 7003

TEAM SECRETARY
City — £9.00 p/hr

Various department teams within International Investment Banks have vacancies for dynamic, enthusiastic secretaries. Word Processing, Excel spreadsheets and presentations on Powerpoint will all be a part of the job. A minimum copy typing speed of 50 wpm is required for these positions. If you are suitable for this and have good organisational skills, please call to arrange an interview.

Call 0171 638 7003

41/42 London Wall, London EC2M 5TB.
Tel: 0171 638 7003. Fax: 0171 628 5057

EXECUTIVE RECEPTIONIST
to £21,000 + Banking Bens

Excellent opportunity for an extremely polished Receptionist to work within this Banking Organisation. The role incorporates scheduling appointments, so keyboard skills a must. The ideal candidate will be aged 25-40 and have had experience as a Receptionist working for a banking/financial organisation.

Please contact Melinda Marks

Jonathan Wren & Co Ltd.,
No.1 New Street, London EC2M 4TP
Tel: 0171 623 1266 Fax: 0171 626 5259

JONATHAN WREN

HR SECRETARY
£20,000 + Excellent Bens

An interesting and exciting opportunity to work for the HR Director of a major financial organisation. Excellent secretarial skills are required as well as organisational flair to manage this busy office. Good standard of education and shorthand preferred.

Please contact Margaret Sorohan.

Jonathan Wren & Co Ltd.,
No.1 New Street, London EC2M 4TP
Tel: 0171 623 1266 Fax: 0171 626 5259

JONATHAN WREN

BANKING PLUS!

DESK ASSISTANT £20,000 + BONUS + BENS
A dynamic Equity Sales team require an assistant/ secretary to organise travel, liaise with clients and compile research. *Fluent French required.*

DYNAMIC BOSSES £19,000 + MS + BENS
Manage two busy diaries, co-ordinate extensive travel plans and liaise with senior level clients... these are just a few of the duties involved in this exiting opening.

Please contact Melinda Marks or Margaret Sorohan.

Jonathan Wren & Co Ltd.,
No.1 New Street, London EC2M 4TP
Tel: 0171 623 1266 Fax: 0171 626 5259

JONATHAN WREN

TRI-LINGUAL SECRETARY

An impressive European Government Agency has a position for a Senior Secretary with at least three European languages. Fluent Portuguese and English essential as is 3 years+ experience with Word 4 Windows and 50wpm for this excellent opportunity starting immediately. **£20,000**

REED EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

For Executive Secretarial Positions In The West End, Tel: 0171 224 2820

PA/SECRETARY

A genuine PA role working for the Operations Director of this dynamic information company. This is a varied and interesting role ideally suited to an IT literate individual with drive and enthusiasm. Excellent MS Office skills will be rewarded with outstanding training prospects. **£20,000**

REED EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

For Executive Secretarial Positions In The City, Tel: 0171 638 1666

The Susan Mills Portfolio

SEC/PA — £20,000 + mtg
Professional, flexible secretary with strong organisation skills needed by Director + small team. Typ 55 wpm. W4W + exc telephone skills 9.00-5.00 with some paid o/t.

Reception(x2) — £16 + £19k
High profile, executive reception roles for 2 top calibre, exp, immaculately groomed and well spoken receptionists.

Team Player — to £18,000
Ideal post for a young secretary (20-26) with initiative, to join a top finance co. in a very busy client driven environment. Good bens + opps. Paid o/t.

TEMP SECRETARIES — £9-11p/hr
Immediate starts, varied, long and short term assignments in top City and West End Companies. Fast accurate typing & good software knowledge.

Tel: 0171 242 3276 Fax: 0171 831 5352 (Rec Cons)

COOL, CALM & COLLECTED
City c. £16,000 + Bens

Sec. required for small US stockbroker. Step into the fascinating world of finance supporting busy associate, diary man., travel and lots, lots more. Hard working, flexible & highly organised with 55 wpm, W4W & Excel. Call now on

Tel 0171 377 6777/Fax 377 5079

MIDDLETON JEFFERS
RECRUITMENT LIMITED

Human Resources
Personal Assistant to £22,000 aae

Self sufficient Personal Assistant with either experience or a strong interest in Human Resources. Working for two senior Executives (with European wide responsibilities) and enjoying maximum delegation / project work. Company is American owned, dynamic, with varied business interests globally. London headquarters are in Mayfair and accommodation is new and interior designed. Worldwide staff number 56,000. A minimum of 5 years experience and Word for Windows, PowerPoint, Excel. Language skills useful - preferably German or French. Benefits include four weeks holiday rising to five and a day off for your birthday! Start as soon as possible.

Susan Doughty Recruitment
39A Curzon Street London W1Y 7RF
Tel: 0171-491 7911 Fax: 0171-491 7922

TEMPS *needed* RIGHT NOW!

TALISMAN
Secretarial
Ltd

We urgently require high quality secretaries. In return we pay *top rates* and offer exciting long and short term assignments in both Corporate and *M*edia companies.

Please call Julie on:
0171 828 2727

MARKETING
£22,000 + BENEFITS

The Managing Director of the Marketing Department of this large, blue chip PLC has a unique opportunity for a lively, client orientated Assistant to join his team.

High levels of energy, exceptional written and verbal communication skills in conjunction with advanced Word for Windows are prerequisites. This role will be varied and will challenge even the most experienced of secretaries. In addition to the complex day to day management of this senior executive's life, project work and client involvement will form a large part of the job. 'A' level education, 80/60wpm and a language are desirable.

Angela Mortimer is an equal opportunities employer. All applicants are positively welcomed.

0171 814 0800

Angela Mortimer

JOSLIN ROWE
secretarial recruitment consultants

Shorthand Secretaries
c£18,000 + Bens — City/West End

We have a variety of positions for shorthand secretaries/PAs within financial and insurance companies. The roles vary but require good shorthand speeds (90-110wpm), fast accurate typing (60wpm) and knowledge of a wide range of systems including Word for Windows, Excel and Powerpoint. Previous experience within the City would be desirable along with a solid work history. Good organisational skills, a professional attitude and pro-active approach to your work is essential for these roles.

Joslin Rowe Associates Ltd
Bell Court House, 11 Blomfield Street
London EC2M 7AY
Telephone: 0171 588 7287 Facsimile: 0171 382 9417

JOSLIN ROWE
secretarial recruitment consultants

Secretarial Administrator
c£14,500 — West End

A Covent Garden Management Consultancy is looking for a bright and proactive administrator for a varied role. The position is split between secretarial and administrative duties and will *include new business processing, maintaining a library of* product information, assisting in the collation of client reports and copy/audio typing. As you will be drafting your own correspondence and liaising with clients you will ideally have at least 1 years' secretarial experience and the confidence and flexibility to work in both a support role and independently. Word for Windows and good typing skills are essential, Powerpoint and experience of E-Mail would be very useful.

Joslin Rowe Associates Ltd
Bell Court House, 11 Blomfield Street
London EC2M 7AY
Telephone: 0171 588 7287 Facsimile: 0171 382 9417

JOSLIN ROWE
secretarial recruitment consultants

Professional PA
c£16,500 + Bens — West End

This prestigious Management Company are currently looking to recruit a well presented PA to work directly for the Chief Executive. Must be well organised, able to prioritise *work load and work on own initiative.* There shall be a high percentage of administrative duties in addition to the normal secretarial role. Evidence of strong administrative and organisational skills required. Advanced knowledge of WordPerfect 6.1 and basic Excel essential. There shall be a very small amount of audio in addition to copy typing. Typing 50wpm.

Joslin Rowe Associates Ltd
Bell Court House, 11 Blomfield Street
London EC2M 7AY
Telephone: 0171 588 7287 Facsimile: 0171 382 9417

career moves

RECRUITMENT MANAGER
£20-25,000
Top 4 PR Consultancy

Supporting the Personnel Manager as the No 2 in Personnel and Human Resources, this challenging position requires a dedicated recruitment Manager who can demonstrate at least 3 years experience recruiting for all levels within a media environment.

IPD or similar qualifications preferred but not essential.

Also recruiting

PA/CO-ORDINATOR £18,000
European Pharmaceuticals PR Account.

TEAM SEC/CO-ORDINATOR £14,000
Pan European PR Account
MS Office (Powerpoint and Excel) + 2 European languages. Ideally French and/or German.

Please call Jane Bally on 0171 292 2900 or fax your CV on 0171 434 0297.

هكذا من الأعلى

ROOM AT THE TOP

PA to Dream Boss *£30,000 Package*

The dynamic Managing Director of this successful West-End based organisation is looking for a new PA. This varied position will involve office administration, recruitment, staff supervision and management of diaries. As you will be working for a boss who is both a delegator and someone who welcomes new ideas there is huge scope to expand the role. The successful applicant will be approachable, confident, proactive and perceptive - some previous PA experience is essential as is the ability to use Powerpoint.

Angela Mortimer is an equal opportunities employer. All applicants are positively welcomed.

0171 287 7788

Angela Mortimer

GLOBAL SALES
£21,000

Dealing with multinationals worldwide, this Director is looking for a co-ordinator to oversee support and reporting functions for their UK sales team. Duties include organising extensive foreign travel, conferences, training and campaigns. Must be available immediately with good Word, Powerpoint and Excel.
Please telephone 0171 495 2321.

Elizabeth Hunt
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

RECEPTION
£19,000

This international blue chip company have an opening for a career receptionist. Based in prestigious Mayfair offices you will present a poised and professional image to clients and VIP's alike. Keyboard skills essential.
Please telephone 0171 495 2321.

Elizabeth Hunt
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

MEDIA PA
£25,000

This holding company has media interests including publishing and TV. They need a senior level secretary to assist a board level director in an operational role. High profile position, VIP liaison with 30% of your time given to project based work. Good PC skills and 100 wpm shorthand.
Please telephone 0171 495 2321.

Elizabeth Hunt
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

PARTNERS' PA'S
£24,000 + EXC BENS

Proactive, resourceful "thinking" PA's are needed for this large successful company. A true right hand to your boss with excellent skills, you can become fully involved in his professional life. Windows essential, shorthand useful.
Please telephone 0171 628 9529.

Elizabeth Hunt
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

WEST LONDON
£20,000

This international IT specialist, in West London, needs a personal assistant to support the head of operations. The position would ideally suit a traditional style secretary with director level experience and the ability to work on his / her own initiative
Please telephone 0171 628 9529.

Elizabeth Hunt
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

EXEC ASSISTANT
£22,000

Total involvement and career development are offered by this prestigious Mayfair based executive search consultancy. An organised mind, professional poise and first rate administrative skills will prove invaluable.
60wpm typing essential.
Please telephone 0171 495 2321.

Elizabeth Hunt
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

CITY TEMPS

do you have experience in...
- CORPORATE FINANCE
- CORPORATE LAW
- PROPERTY LAW
- MERGERS AND ACQUISITIONS
- LITIGATION
with good general all round secretarial skills.
If so call us on 0171 638 9991 in order to earn £10 - £12 p/h.

Elizabeth Hunt
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

WEST END TEMPS
Secretaries and receptionists

- Top hourly rates, loyalty bonus and paid bank holidays.
- Cross training onto the latest systems.
- Immediate short and long term assignments; matched to your individual experience and skills.

For more information please telephone Jane, Sophie & Jo on
0171 499 8070

Elizabeth Hunt
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

EXECUTIVE PA
£25,000 to £30,000

An excellent opportunity to join one of the world's leading energy companies. As an executive assistant you will expand your PA experience in a role which will give you your own responsibilities for research and reports. Microsoft Office experience essential.
Please telephone 0171 628 9529.

Elizabeth Hunt
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

PR
£18,000

What did you do last week? This secretary booked an international personality for a tv launch party, kept journalists at bay, supplied statistics to the FT, organised a photocall and arranged client hospitality at Cheltenham. If this is more interesting than your week:-
Please telephone 0171 628 9529.

Elizabeth Hunt
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

Only one temporary recruitment agency in London guarantees its biggest asset.
You.

Lots of work with top notch clients.

Great rates of pay. Plenty of variety.

What more could you want from your recruitment agency?

How about a company that actually guarantees its temporaries?

The Tate 100% no quibble, Watertight Guarantee is the ultimate accolade.

Because it says you're the best.

If you have secretarial, reception or VDU/clerical skills and think you've got what it takes to join Tate, come along for a chat.

As well as appointments in office hours, we'll be here between 6pm and 8pm Monday to Thursday - just come along! On Saturday 22 March, we're making appointments between 10am and 4pm and for City temps we'll be in EC4 on Monday 24 March.

Just contact Cherie Macgregor-Skinner or Rachel Huggins on 0171 408 0425.

Tate, 70 - 71 New Bond Street,
London W1Y 9DE.

Tate
WATERTIGHT GUARANTEE

GREYTHORN

CORPORATE SECRETARIES
c£21,000 + BANKING BENS

Not everyone enjoys working within the most busy and dynamic area of Investment Banking. There is always lots of overtime (ALL PAID), lots of typing, presentation work and client liaison at the highest level. *If you do, you'll* thrive under pressure, enjoy being part of a young and sociable team and be rewarded with a superb financial package. Ess skills: 65 wpm typing, Word, Powerpoint and Excel + previous banking exp useful.

CORPORATE TEMPS

Unlimited opportunities for highly skilled and motivated temps. *Excellent MS Office* and typing speeds essential. Call now for superb opportunities.

Phone 0171 831 [illegible] Fax 0171 [illegible]

GREYTHORN plc
[illegible]

PA - £18,000 NEG
LEISURE WC2

Excel allrounder for leisure info co; own areas of admin/research/projects. W4W/WPerfect/Lotus/Access ess. Exp in Marketing helpful.
Mrs Prosser
0171 259 6999.
Beauchamp Bureau

SECRETARY 18/20K.

Excellent opp to join International Co in WC2. You will have 80wpm + Audio, Word & Powerpoint and previous Legal or Financial exp necessary for this dynamic Dept. Superb Bens. Cont Pension, Free Lunch, Profit Share, PPP, plus Lots more.
For an Immediate interview contact Katharine Beaumont-Thomas on 0171 499 8112
Fax 0171 499 8115.
Recruit Plc.

Personal Assistant/Secretary required by Surgeon. This is a busy and interesting post, a person with experience and high quality office skills is required. The vacancy is due to retirement of the present encumbent and duties should commence as soon as possible. Send CV as well as name and address of two referees to 32 Shepherd Street, London W1Y 7LJ. Salary to commence at: £16,500 per annum.

DESIGN SEC
£17,000

Secretary needed for large fashion boutique working in CE's office. The work will include high level of client liaison, diary management and meeting organisation as well as general sec duties. Will suit young, enthusiastic person with at least 6 months sec exp.
Please fax CV's 0171 734 4885
Sarah Stewart-Smith Rec
Tel: 0171 734 5855.

HOBSTONES

Personnel Secretary
City £17,000

Large City law firm are looking for a bright enthusiastic second jobber who wishes to develop their career within a personnel environment.

You should have 'O' level education along with 60 wpm typing and a professional attitude.

In return they offer an excellent benefit package with a unique opportunity to get into Personnel.

Call Kim Harris on
0171 550 7000

LEGAL RECRUITMENT

Aldrich & Company

• BRIGHT SPARK
• £18-20k + Glittering Pkg

Marketing Assistant / Secretary needed for a young team in a high profile Fund Management Company. This is a great chance to build a career, deal directly with clients and use your initiative. Call Emily Aldrich

• PERSONNEL ADMIN
• £18k + Great Bens

Act as complete right hand within HR of a city bank. Liaise with line managers and agencies, book temps on weekly basis, provide sec support, offer letters, induction packs etc. Busy and fun role. Call Sarah Turnbull

• STEP INTO THE CITY
• to £18k plus o/t++

This team of three young directors need some help. Would suit 2nd jobber with a confident & flexible approach. Masses of involvement and a really sociable department. Fabulous city offices. Call Alex Gaze

Tel: 0171 588 8999 **CITY RECRUITMENT** **Fax: 0171 588 8998**

MAINE - TUCKER
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

A genuine career path and a good salary!...

PR Assistant
c£15,000 + bens

Learn all you need to know about media relations and journalism by being lucky enough to get this fab job. Take on the responsibility of a PR case from day one as well as providing a first class support role for two Directors. They will need your sec skills, 50wpm typing and you must have 6mths office experience. Based in Soho, this creative group are world leaders in their international advertising business so your future is exciting! Ideally you will be a graduate or have some PR background. Internet knowhow is useful.

A career in Human Resources!
up to £15,000

This is a one-off job for a graduate who wants a great start in HR. Work for a small, young company in the West End and be immediately involved in project co-ordination, research and client/advertising liaison. Reporting to the MD you must have 45wpm typing and have some office or temping experience (3mths or more is ok). The prospects are brilliant and you will learn all you need to know for a glowing career. Call us now and start as you mean to go on!

Bold Beginnings
£16K + bens

If exciting prospects and interesting contact with the Government and Press fill you with enthusiasm, read on! This small member company organisation in the political eye (SW1) are looking for an Admin Assistant with six months' office experience and 40wpm typing on W4W (grads welcomed). Help research and compile information, make travel arrangements, attend meetings and provide admin support for a busy team. If you have a good education ('A' level min) and you're 18yrs+ then call us now.

18-21 Jermyn Street, St James's, London SW1Y 6HP
Telephone: 0171 734 7341 Facsimile: 0171 734 3260

Chief Executive - to £30,000

Arranging shooting parties and liaising with the stud manager will be part of you role when you support a well-known International Investment Banker from his City base.

The very nature of his business means he is constantly on the move travelling between London, New York, the Far East and elsewhere. Your role is to organise all aspects of his life, co-ordinate his hectic schedule, and liaise with his contacts worldwide. Skills 100/70.

0171 629 9323

DIRECTORS' SECRETARIES

Office Manager/PA
Fashion

c£18K + Package West End

Our client, an internationally famous upmarket fashion brand, is currently seeking a dynamic PA to work closely with the MD and Operations Director.

You will be super organised, well presented, good humoured, and willing to become totally involved with the team. You will also be responsible for managing office issues and customer liaison. Shorthand at 70/80 wpm is desirable as is PC literacy specifically Excel.

For further information contact Verne Simmons.

SUCCESS APPOINTMENTS • 7 AIR STREET • LONDON W1R 5RJ
TEL 0171 287 7722 • FAX 0171 734 1692

SENIOR HR ASSISTANT

£25,000 + Banking Benefits

The HR Director of this international Investment Bank needs a forward thinking assistant. Working with a team of six, you will utilise your previous HR experience or IPD qualifications to manage your own research projects. Your experience in the banking sector, ability to liaise at senior level and excellent secretarial skills will be fully utilised when providing comprehensive PA support. A flexible approach to working in a team environment will require strong administrative skills, shorthand and confident use of MS Office. For details of this and other vacancies at this level please call now.

Angela Mortimer is an equal opportunities employer.
All applicants are positively welcomed.

0171 814 0800

Angela Mortimer

EXECUTIVE PA

£21,000 Package

A major blue-chip Management Consultancy is looking for a senior PA to support a Managing Partner. Excellent organisational and administrative skills will be required for arranging client conferences and co-ordinating a hectic business schedule and complex travel itineraries. Outstanding secretarial skills will also be essential for coping in this fast-moving environment which rewards dedication and commitment with opportunities for personal and professional development. As well as enjoying considerable client contact, management liaison and being keen to learn, you should have 50wpm and preferably shorthand.

Angela Mortimer is an equal opportunities employer.
All applicants are positively welcomed.

0171 814 0800

Angela Mortimer

MAINE - TUCKER
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

GREEN PARK
PA TO CHAIRMAN - £18k + bonus + bens

[illegible]

18-21 Jermyn Street, St James's, London SW1Y 6HP
Telephone: 0171 734 7341 Facsimile: 0171 734 3260

TEMPS TO £12.00 PER HOUR

Top rates. Great jobs. User friendly consultants. Some of the best companies to work for, City & West End locations. How? Simple really, we want the best for you, our respected clients and ourselves. Good skills (possibly another language), adaptability and flexibility are the keys to successful temping. Whether you seek a long term contract, a temp to perm job or a few weeks here or there, we can help. So call us today.

Call Nicole Simmons on 0171 377 5500 or fax your CV to 0171 377 5599

CROSS SELECTION

Corporate Finance
19-22k + Bank Bens

We are inundated with opportunities for young secretaries with some City experience. Lots of variety offered in return for your fast accurate typing skills including W4W, Excel and PowerPoint. Arrange travel, meetings and diaries, liaise with high profile clients. Formal secretarial qualifications plus a good education essential and you will need to be professional and flexible.

To find out more call Cross Selection: *0171 377 5500* or fax your CV to 0171 377 5599.

CROSS SELECTION

RECRUITMENT MANAGER
W1 ADVERTISING AGENCY
c£27,000 + BENEFITS

Our clients are seeking an experienced Recruitment Manager to join small HR function of top International Advertising Agency. Responsibilities will include heavy recruitment of secretarial, IT, administrative and support staff, induction, compiling job descriptions, liaising with temporary and permanent agencies, etc. It is envisaged that the ideal candidate will be 28+, hopefully IPD qualified, extremely pro-active and highly motivated. This really is a first class career move! Please call Sandy or fax CV to

Rainbow Recruitment
12 South Molton Street, London W1Y 1DF
Tel: 0171 491 7252 Fax: 0171 491 2887

SH/SEC TO
SALES DIRECTOR
FASHION HOUSE
TO £20,000 + SUPERB BENEFITS

Would you like to work at the top? Are you an experienced Shorthand Secretary with first class skills, highly computer *literate who would like to join the fast paced world of fashion?* Busy Sales Director needs right-hand support including constant liaison with stores around the UK, spreadsheet work, busy diary and travel arranging, plus the ability to remain calm when the heat is on! Sounds good? Please call Sandy or fax CV to

Rainbow Recruitment
12 South Molton Street, London W1Y 1DF
Tel: 0171 491 7252 Fax: 0171 491 2887

MAINE - TUCKER
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

SLICK RECEPTION
up to £20,000 + bens

[illegible]

18-21 Jermyn Street, St James's, London SW1Y 6HP
Telephone: 0171 734 7341 Facsimile: 0171 734 3260

JOSLIN ROWE
secretarial recruitment consultants

PA to Chief Executive
c£25,000 + Bens ***Putney***

An International IT Company is seeking a calm and confident experienced PA (20-30 yrs old) who has extensive IT experience. As he travels a large amount, the suitable candidate will have the ability to work on their own initiative and take on responsibility. *A young and friendly* environment in which you will use your excellent interpersonal skills. Computer literate with a sound knowledge of MS Word for Windows, Excel, some Powerpoint and a typing speed of 60wpm.

Joslin Rowe Associates Ltd
Bell Court House, 11 Blomfield Street
London EC2M 7AY
Telephone: 0171 588 7287 Facsimile: 0171 382 9417

JOSLIN ROWE
secretarial recruitment consultants

Ami Professional Whiz!
c£16,000 + Bens **City**

Our client, a highly regarded Insurance Group seeks a bright individual with excellent system skills. This is a rewarding opportunity for a committed secretary keen for involvement using Ami Professional and Lotus 123 extensively. Previous experience within a team environment would ideally suit as this role supports an Account Director and 2 other Account Executives. Key attributes include drive, enthusiasm, initiative and a sense of humour. The position offers responsibility and greater challenge for the right person.

Joslin Rowe Associates Ltd
Bell Court House, 11 Blomfield Street
London EC2M 7AY
Telephone: 0171 588 7287 Facsimile: 0171 382 9417

CONTRACTS ADMINISTRATOR
W1 OIL COMPANY
TO £25,000 + ANNUAL BONUS

We require an experienced Administrator with a working knowledge of either the crude or petroleum industry. This is *an American company based in W1 with offices worldwide.* Duties include full responsibility of administering all the contracts produced by the broking team so you need accurate typing and must be computer literate. Team player essential - they work hard and play hard! Please call Elaine or fax CV to

Rainbow Recruitment
12 South Molton Street, London W1Y 1DF
Tel: 0171 491 7252 Fax: 0171 491 2887

SH/SEC FOR DIRECTOR
POLITICAL PR COMPANY
£18,000

Age immaterial! Exciting new, totally involving role has arisen for an assertive, experienced, pro-active Shorthand Secretary. Small W1 PR Company specialising in top profile clients including the political arena would like to meet you if you are confident and experienced at Director level. Maturity, common sense and a great sense of humour essential for this extremely interesting position. Team players only please! Please call Sandy or fax CV to

Rainbow Recruitment
12 South Molton Street, London W1Y 1DF
Tel: 0171 491 7252 Fax: 0171 491 2887

MAINE - TUCKER
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

ADMIN/SECRETARY
- up to £18,500 + free meals, sports facilities

[illegible]

18-21 Jermyn Street, St James's, London SW1Y 6HP
Telephone: 0171 734 7341 Facsimile: 0171 734 3260

Tel: 0171 680 6806
Language Opportunities

Multilingual Crème

Fax: 0171 782 7586
Language Opportunities

BI-LINGUAL Sec/PA City up to £22K. Excellent opportunity for someone fluent in French & ideally Portuguese with 80-100 wpm shorthand, to work for a small, but successful import /export company in a brand new dep't. This is a lovely opp. which will expand according to ability of the successful applicant. If you are aged 25+ with a flexible, professional character with a good sense of humour & ideally some knowledge of the mining industry, please call Mary on 0171 220 7575 for immediate interview

BRUSSELS: English m/t Bilingual Sec/Asst with fluent French re'q for Int'l Org. Other European lang exp German useful. Min 50wpm WP + good admin/detail /interpersonal skills. Interest current affairs useful. Some travel. c. £16,500 p.a. Tax free. SBL Tel 0171 584 6446 or Tel/fax Paris 0033 1 44 63 02 57/59. Reg Interviews London.

£21,000 Danish/Norwegian Speaking Sec for friendly City Law firm. Legal Sec. exp. pref.- 0171 556 7075/Fax 0171 - 556 7475 Roberts & Young

£19,000 + bens - DTP op's to work evening / graveyard / weekend shifts. German an adv. 37½ hr week. Previous banking exp. pref. Euro London Appts 0171-583 0180 Fax 0171-353 9849.

FRANCE. Join our existing team as biling. sec (French/English). Min 2 yrs exp. Good skills & fluent French ess. Exc. package. Merrow Agy: 0171 499 3939.

FRENCH Fabulous job in HR, dealing with Personnel administration, recruitment, liaising with Head Office in Paris so fluent French essential. English shorthand & good typing needed for secretarial support to Head of Dept. Confidentiality & ability to cope with the fast pace! Salary c£21,000. Pls call Sabina on 0171 390 7000. CRONE CORKILL MULTILINGUAL Rec Cons

£21,000 Fluent Italian Speaking Sec with Legal or Banking Secretarial exp for City Law firm.- 0171 556 - 7075/Fax 0171 - 556 7475 Roberts & Young

FRENCH &/or German useful for administrative role in training division of HR. Gd typ/pc skills ess. £19K + bb Language Matters Agy 0171-930 1811.

FLUENT Dutch Secretary International Co.-City-£20K. Lovely role for enthusiastic and well organised PA used to a professional environment. Working for a team of 4 you will have a varied workload with daily client contact. Friendly, caring company. 25 days holiday. Typing 65WPM.

PA SEC WITH GERMAN £20-24,000 + BENS

Good secretary *with fast typing* and audio skills to work as part of a city based team. There will be constant use of your fluent German. If you have another European language this would be a benefit. For more information...

..please call Caroline on 0171 499 5881
Adecco Elite (Rec Cons)
16 Lansdowne Row,
Berkeley Sq., London W1X 7LN

Adecco Elite

Frankfurt Based PA

£23K v.neg + bonus + relocation costs

Excellent opportunity for a confident proactive PA to utilise their initiative, charm and fluent German assisting a small team of dynamic Directors at this major international organisation. Powerpoint. W4W, 55 wpm essential. Initial interviews in London. Call Ashling Fogarty.

Changes Recruitment,
14 South Molton Street,
London W1.
0171 491 1255

BI-LINGUAL SEC/OFFICE MANAGER Uxbridge £18-20K

This extraordinary position involves assisting in the UK start-up operation of one of the top US companies. If your German is up to scratch and you have outstanding accounts/secretarial experience as well as the commitment to make a go of it, this will be the best career move you'll have ever made.

For information contact Evelyn on 01895-252220 or drop in to Office Angels, Norwich Union House, Bakers Rd. Uxbridge.

Office Angels

COME FLY WITH US...

FRENCH
£16,000–£20,000 + bens.

This well known Cosmetics company based in the West End is now looking for career secretaries who enjoy providing a high quality service. We are currently recruiting at various levels within HR and marketing. You will need outstanding secretarial skills together with assertiveness *and confidence and the ability to* work in a pressurised and demanding environment.

FRENCH/ITALIAN
£20,000

One of the most proactive Fashion houses is now expanding a new range throughout Europe and as a result looking to build up a team of support staff who will be providing secretarial and administrative assistance. You will be fluent in French and/or Italian and have a strong secretarial background in a big Plc *environment. You must enjoy working in a highly* glamorous environment that still expects very high standards, commitment and professionalism.

FRENCH/SPANISH
£20,000 + bens.

This American Merchant Bank is currently recruiting a professional PA who will be providing secretarial and administrative assistance to a team of Bankers. Fluency in French and Spanish is essential as you will be regularly liaising at senior level with French and Spanish speaking countries. Banking experience in a secretarial capacity will obviously be an advantage. Outstanding secretarial skills are a prerequisite together with a dynamic and forward thinking personality.

The Multilingual Division of Angela Mortimer Plc has now 5 Multilingual Recruitment Consultants. We can help you on making your next professional step and provide assistance on permanent or temporary assignments. Our client database varies from Banking to Fashion or Management Consultancies to Interior Designers. With offices in London and Paris we would like to make you feel the international experience. Please do not hesitate to contact **Davide Mele, Jacob Madsen or Matthew Chester** on **0171 814 0800** or fax your CV to them on **0171 814 0801.**

Angela Mortimer International
The multilingual Division of Angela Mortimer PLC

FRENCH & Spanish or German *PA/sec to dir of* intl operations nLon. Prev dir level exp ess. £18-20K Language Matters Agy 0171-930 1811.

FRENCH. Fabulous opportunity for young secretary with spoken French and 1-2 years' experience to work for an international household name. A varied role for a bright personality who can run ad hoc projects on their own initiative. Lots of organising and liaising through the company and associate offices. Jobs like these are rare so don't miss out! Salary £16,000. Call Jennifer Ross on 0171 390 7000. Crone Corkill Multilingual Rec Cons.

FRENCH Biling sec for M&A Dept of global bank gd typ/pc & dtp skills ess. £20K + bb Language Matters Agy 0171-930 1811.

GERMAN/English Mech Engineer Milton Keynes £25K LS Agy 0181 455 8922.

FRENCH Biling sec/admin for 2 mgrs. Gd typ & Eng s/h ess. £20K + bens Language Matters Agy 0171-930 1811.

TRANSLATOR: German to English with several years' technical and terminology exp for inhouse position, Berks. £18-£21K incl bonuses. Multilingual Services rec cons 0171 930 4880.

GERMAN/French Biling sec (Ger MT) for busy HD of dept in intl bank. Hectic & involved role. Gd typ/pc skills ess. £18-20K + bb Language Matters Agy 0171-930 1811.

GERMAN + Italian. Secretary with good WP skills (Powerpoint/Excel/Word), fluent German & knowledge of Italian for busy job in the City. Salary to £21,000 + excellent package including mortgage subsidy & paid overtime. If you have worked in banking before & enjoy using your initiative in a very international workplace, please call Sabina on *0171 390* 7000. CRONE CORKILL MULTILINGUAL Rec Cons.

JAPANESE City based Bank requires P/T Temp Sec with fluent Japanese and Word/Excel £8/9 p/h. Euro London Appointments 0171 583 0180.

PARIS - T.M. International has opportunities for Eng MT bilingual secs. 1) U.S. Drinks Co. seeks PA to Dir of External Relations. 220KF 2) Consulting Firm seeks Office Mgr. Experience a must. 180KF 3). Engineering Co. seeks PA to Dir of Int'l Operations. 200KF. Fax your CV today on 00 33 1.47.42.18.87

SCANDINAVIAN! Swedish /Norwegian / Danish bilingual Secs urgently reqd for various posts in Banking/Legal. £18-22K. LES (agy) 0171 287 0424.

PARSONS GREEN/GERMAN, dynamic young company is looking for a bright secretary/receptionist with good spoken German to work in fantastically trendy offices. Varied role with plenty of scope for initiative. Excellent 1st/2nd job for young secretary with 40wpm typing. Salary £14,000. Pls call Jennifer Ross on 0171 390 7000. Crone Corkill Multilingual Rec Cons.

TRADING floor secretary with French, Italian, Spanish or German. Busy job supporting successful team. Fantastic package C£25,000. Good typing & WP skills essential. Pls call Sabina on 0171 390 7000. CRONE CORKILL MULTILINGUAL Rec Cons.

PA Secretary - Spanish up to £25K to work in North London for young, global Director. Total investment, career-development for more information call Caroline on 0171 499 5881 Adecco Elite (Agy).

RUSSIAN Spking/English M'tongue - £16,000 neg. Intl trading co W2 needs right arm for Russian executive due to arrive soon. Varied role. Preferred age Mid 20s - early 30s. Mrs Prosser 0171 259 6999 Beauchamp Bureau.

SPANISH speaking secretary immediately required for a temp-t0-perm vacancy within a prestigious City bank. Finance experience, good Word for Windows and a positive approach all necessary. £9.50 p/hr. Please call Mikaela on0171 390 7000 TANTO COMO POSIBLE! Crone Corkill Rec Cons.

SPANISH Translator for prestigious Investment Co. Must be qualified with legal or finance b/ground. Typing ess. Some travel abroad £25K Language Recruitment 0171 287 0424.

GERMAN OR FRENCH SPEAKER WITH SALES EXPERIENCE/ABILITY

Required for Sales/Sales support role for hectic but fun city based consultancy. A lively energetic personality is essential, along with a strong desire to succeed in a competitive environment. You must be of 'A' level/Graduate calibre, aged 22-26 and worked in a client driven environment. Package to £20K +. Excellent prospects.

Tel: Ria King 0171 739 2022 or send full CV to MBA, 12 Brook House, Chapel Place, Rivington St, London EC2. Fax 0171 739 2129.

TRANSLATOR: English to Spanish Trained professional with solid legal & financial translator experience, for inhouse post. £25K + pkge. Multilingual Services rec cons 0171 930 4880.

BI-LING. PA/SEC

To £20K + Bonus
To £40K in 2 years

A proactive Sec. with outgoing personality able to deal with top people in the City. You will be PA to a young MD and will be fluent in a language preferably French.

Excellent career opportunity with unlimited earnings for ambitious individual. Ref. 7016.

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Fluent French PA – Banking
£20K + Banking Bens

Intl. Investment House with burgeoning Corp. Fin. activity seeks an enthusiastic positive PA as right hand to a dynamic director. W4W/Powerpoint/Typing 60WPM.

French & Spanish Research Sec/DTP
c£19K + Banking Bens

This leading City Bank, has several openings for secretaries with good computer skills to work in Equity research. These roles require real dedication and a desire for involvement. W4W, Pagemaker and Powerpoint. 50WPM typing.

German or Scandinavian Team Sec.
c£17K

Efficient? Enthusiastic? Sound secretarial skills? If so, this superb opportunity in a City law firm is for you! Legal experience not essential, would suit a banking background.

PA French & Portuguese – c£20K

Excellent career move for highly organised individual wishing to break into new role in Import/Export. This is an exciting and expanding City based company. W4W, Excel & Powerpoint.

Tel: 0171 583 0180 Fax: 0171 353 9849
1 HARE PLACE, 47 FLEET STREET, LONDON EC4Y 1BJ.

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FRENCH £20,000+

PA/Secretary. English to mother tongue std, Powerpoint, shorthand useful, W4W's, Excel.

0171 734 4469

Bilinguagroup

Secretary/Administrator £20K + Bens
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Bilinguagroup Rec Cons
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ADMINISTRATIVE CREME

AN ADMINISTRATOR c£14,000 with good WP skills, charm and efficiency to meet & greet and be linchpin of hectic West End office of Recruitment Consultancy. Call Caroline West on 0171 287 2044/fax 287 3717 Middleton Jeffers Rec Cons.

FINACIAL/Sales Administrator for lively W1 animation company. Accounting & computer experience essential. Salary neg. Send CV to 167 Wardour Street W1V 3TA or Fax 0171 468 3488.

PERSONNEL, Superb career opportunity if you are bright, well educated & presented. Offer total support to a busy & varied personnel dept, maintain staff records, administer pay, medical & benefit schemes. Knowledge of Microsoft & previous admin exp ess. Sal c£15K. Royds Raphael Rec. 0171 287 2050.

Office Secretary/ Administrator

We are a new Archimcural & Interior Design Practice who urgently seek someone who has good all rounder office capabilities. Microsoft Office Software ess. Immediate start. Please send CV to: The Manager, MC Arch. Design UK Ltd. 1 Chesterfield St. London W1X 7HG or fax on: 0171 499 2819.

FIRST CREME

JUNIOR Secretary for Kensington Office - would suit Graduate with secretarial training. Great prospects. £12,000 p.a. T.J & Co. 0171 838 0023 rec cons.

OFFICE Junior - £12,000 for large US Co nr Oxford St. Energetic & reliable person to assist in all areas of running a busy office. Scope for right person. King & Toben Rec. 0171-629-9648

FIRST JOBBER

Junior secretarial position within busy National Newspaper Offices. Must have fast, accurate typing to RSA/Pitmans Standard. Would suit a young, enthusiastic person with a lively personality. Salary £13,000 + benefits. **Please send your CV to Angela Lodge, Office Manager, News International Newspapers Ltd, PO Box 484, 1 Virginia Street, London, E1 9BL. Closing Date 21/3/97.**

ADMINISTRATIVE CREME

Alexandra Beaumont

Admin/PA
£22,000 + Superb Bens

1:2 role assisting the Senior Global Partner + Marketing Manager of a well known City Co. Varied role with own area of responsibility + international client liaison.

Tel: 0171-404-7314 Fax 0171-404-7399

MULTILINGUAL CREME

HOBStones

French Team Secretary £18-21k + Exc Benefits

A Team secretary is required to work for a large International bank based in the City. You will be working *for a dynamic and highly motivated* team of 3, organising travel and preparing presentations as well as communicating in both English and French. You will need accurate typing (60 wpm), knowledge of Word and PowerPoint and fluent French. Call **Sara Armitage at the City office on**
0171 550 7000.

RECRUITMENT

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for prestigious Company with quality approach based in Victoria. If you are cheerful, hard working and able to develop the potential of a busy desk plus knowledge of Word/Access (£15,000 pa plus commission) then phone Jane Urquhart at Greycoat Placements

0171 233 9950

FIRST CREME

OFFICE Junior. We are a small firm close to Green Pk tbe. Person req to carry out gen office duties including keeping document records. Computer literate on W4W 7 & W 95 an adv. Must be well spoken, well presented, thoroughly reliable and willing to fetch and carry. This is a responsible position and a great opportunity. May suit mother returning to work full time. References will be taken up. Salary: £8,500 p/a to start. Tel: 0171 493 2431 - Miss Doherty. NO AGENCIES!

RECEPTIONIST

Foxtons require a young enthusiastic receptionist to work within a group of highly motivated property negotiators. Applicants need to be well presented, personable with an enthusiastic professional telephone manner, good comp skills and ability to work in a hectic environment. Must live in central London. Sal up to £13,500. Ideally aged 19-23.

Tel: 0171 373 5533.

TRAINEE SEC £12,000

Fantastic 1st job with International Search & Selection Co (offices worldwide) for college leaver or 6 months exp to be part of lively environment in Covent Garden. Min 45wpm, W4W. Suit bright grad.

Call 0171 287 2044
Fax 0171 287 3717

MIDDLETON JEFFERS
RECRUITMENT LIMITED

FASHION to £15,000 neg. College leaver or mini 2nd jobber secretary sought by hi profile international fashion group to assist MD's PA. Would suit polished, well spoken team player who is enthusiastic and keen to learn. Real prospects to progress. 45 wpm typing, shorthand useful, W4W v.6. Please call 0171 637 3212 Summers By Two Rec Cons.

OFFICE JUNIOR, £10,500, for varied supportive role in friendly W1 co. 6 mths exp. Typing 30wpm. 0171 493 2888 Heritage Rec.

£15,000 - prestigious private estate seeks junior secretary to provide all-round support within a small, established team. Confident Shorthand/typing are requested (80/50). Please call 0171-494 4466 Gordon Yates Recruitment.

RESTAURANT Group to £14,000. General Manager of prestigious well known restaurant seeks socially confident proactive college leaver secretary for non routine role in young hectic environment. Suit team player able to organise social events etc. 80/45 skills + W4W v.6 + Excel. Call 0171 637 3212 Summers By Two Rec Cons.

SLOANE Sq SW1 - £11-12,500. Good allrounder for varied post. Would suit 1st jobber with keyboard skills. Good prospects. Mrs Prosser 0171 259 6999 Beauchamp Bureau.

JUNIOR/ EVENTS £9,500

Successful Event organisers need a 1st jobber who will turn a hand to anything! W4W, Excel & 35wpm. Lots of variety for enthusiastic beginner.

Call 0171 287 2044
Fax 0171 287 3717

MIDDLETON JEFFERS
RECRUITMENT LIMITED

TO £17,000 neg. 2nd jobber secretary sought by small but expanding plc. head office. Stunning W1 offices. Would suit team spirited, cheerful, enthusiastic young person eager to learn. Min. 50 wpm typing, shorthand useful, W4W v.6 s/sheet exp. Age 20+. Please call 0171 637 3212 Summers By Two Rec Cons.

SUPER SECRETARIES

A Property secretary, NW3, Word 7. Small office. Unique 0181-455 8187.

ASSISTANT c£18,000 req for small exec search co. based EC4. Must have mature outlook, City finance background. Min 50wpm and MS Office. Call Middleton Jeffers Rec Cons 0171 377 6777 Fax 377 5079.

AUDIO none/SH none! £16-£17,000 Covent Garden Co that recruits worldwide. Team player to be Divisional Sec in young, very successful environment. Fast-moving and busy. Call 0171 287 2044- Fax 287 3717 Middleton Jeffers Rec Cons.

£24,000 + bonus, Life Ass. Health Ass, - working for City eminent lawyer. Good Legal Secretarial track-record ess. Start asap. (Open Saturdays!) 0171 556-7075-Fax 0171 556 7475 Roberts & Young Rec Cons.

CITY - PAs with shorthand and City experience. W4W, Excel, Powerpoint. Age 28-40. Up to £25,000. Directors' Secretaries 0171 629 9323.

CLAPHAM based auctioneers require a P.A. with a brilliant memory to organise this manic Director. Applemac exp with good audio. £19,000 p.a. T.J & Co. 0171 838 0023 rec cons.

CONFIDENT 2nd jobber Secretary £16,000 neg. Prestigious Mayfair property company seeks proactive flexible teamplayer for varied and interesting role. Help organise social events such as a Charity Ball and Annual Shoot whilst working in a young fun environment assisting 3 busy executives. 60wpm audio typing + W4W6. Please call 0171 637 3212 Summers By Two Rec Cons.

COURSE Manager £24k for major city co, exp in training or project management, dealing in courses bookings etc. Varied responsible role. Diamond personnel 0171 929 2977

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Tel: 0171 244 6700

LONDON'S PREMIER BUSINESS COLLEGE
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SUPER SECRETARIES

FULHAM - PA to Managing Directors. W4W, Access. Age 28-40. £19,000. Directors' Secretaries 0171 629 9323.

GREEN PARK to £20,000. Luxurious London office of well established international company seeks capable, elegant and socially confident secretary. This is a varied interesting role but not a career job. Would suit traditional style mature person. 90/55 skills + Windows & S/sheets. Please call *0171 637 3212 Summers By* Two Rec Cons.

HAMPSTEAD, *NW3.* Proactive PA/Sec to run small office for Chief Exec. Loads of potential. £18,000 neg. 0171 493 7001, SECRETARIES PLUS, the secretarial consultants.

HIGH Flyer *PA* - £22,000. This prestigious venture capital company is looking for a very professional P.A. to organise a senior partner. Responsibilities will include arranging complex diary schedules and travel itineraries. You will need to prioritise your own work load and have very high standards. You should be a team player, have previous financial experience and a sound knowledge of W4W, Excel and 50 wpm+. Shorthand and presentation packages would be helpful. If you are looking for a new challenge please call Angela Mortimer plc on 0171 2877788

LEGAL Secretary, NW10, typing 80wpm+, Windows 95. c£17K Unique 0181 455 8187.

MATERNITY LEAVE COVER to £20,000 pro rata. Flexible, proactive socially confident secretary to work for MD of prestigious W1 property plc. Organise and attend social events such as Tennis Tournaments, Charity Balls, and Annual Shoots. Must enjoy young, fun environment. 65wpm audio typing. W4W6 + some Powerpoint. Please call 0171 637 3212 Summers By Two Rec Cons.

£22,500 Maternity Leave. Prestigious City company requires an experienced senior secretary/PA to look after their MD whilst his PA is on leave. You will be used to & enjoy a demanding but professional environment, have experience of working with figures & be a flexible team player. Shorthand useful for minutes & 60+ typing. The Recruitment Company 0171 831 1220.

MATURE PA - c£16,000- small W End charity dealing with Arts, Education + Medical need organised PA - 80+wpm s/h + W4Ws. Regular hours + friendly team. Pref age: 30-48. 0171 499 6666 Grosvenor Bureau

NEW YORK! New York! Admin Assistant, mid 20's+, keen to work in the Big Apple? Small, busy office, friendly & informal *on Fifth Avenue.* Organisational flair, initiative & 50wpm ess. £18,000 ($30,000) + flights etc. Call 0171 493 7001 or fax 0171 493 7002, SECRETARIES PLUS, the secretarial consultants.

NW5 textile co. need good PA sec for design director. c£16K Unique 0181 455 8187.

PA. £18-20,000 for Dir. of venture capital co. Must be computer literate & ready to take on research, extensive travel arrangements, searches on Internet. Lovely people. Health & Pension scheme. 0171 493 *2888 Heritage Rec.*

"PA PROPER" - Harlow for Chairman of dynamic Pharmaceutical Co. Good Secretarial, WP & Presentation skills ess. Not to be missed by the Sec who req's a satisfying PA role, plus trimmings, Without long hours & pressure. Exc. *££££* package. 0171 - 556 7075 fax 0171 556 7475. Roberts & Young Agy.

PA Secretaries wanted for West End based companies including Blue Chip clients. Knowledge of Word for Windows, ·Powerpoint, Excel req'd. Excellent pay rates. Immediate bookings. Call Adecco Alfred Marks on 0171 495 2991 (Agy)

PA/SEC for W/E businessman. Win 95 literate. Must be intelligent, organised and able to work on own initiative. Potentially very rewarding job for self motivator. £17,000. Box No 3875.

PA Secretaries X 2 £20,000-£22,000. Comp & Prop co's - W1. Audio/Copy/W4W, busy & varied roles, young environ. Gd ben. Immd starts. Contact Laura on 0171 581 5411 Adecco Alfred Marks (rec cons).

£24,000 *PA to Finance Director of large PR company.* High percentage of client contact and admin work. Please fax CV's 0171 734 4905 Sarah Stewart-Smith Rec 0171 734 5955.

SCHOOL W7, Headmistress seeks supportive responsible senior PA. C£25K. Unique 0181 455 8187.

SEC for Sales Director in Radio Station. A multi-faceted role co-ordinating the sales team, involvement in PR and sponsorship, presentations & diary. £15k + 5 weeks hols, gym, canteen, pension. 0171 493 2888 Heritage Rec.

SEC/PA for Chairman of leading London advertising agency. Impeccable shorthand essential and familiarity with Windows '95 desirable. Top salary. Please fax CV to 'APG' 0171 543 4502.

SECRETARY/Assistant - Small prestigious art gallery require a switched on individual who can manage the office, liaise with clients as well as run errands. Will suit someone who enjoys mucking in with lots of initiative. *£13.5K. Please call* Susanna Hargreaves on 0171 434 4512 rec cons.

SECRETARY - Capital Markets. 20K + Bens. Leading City Bank require confident Secretary with the ability to work under pressure excellent WP knowledge. S/H and European lang. Would be an advantage. Call Cross Selection on 0171 377 5600. Fax: 0171 377 5599.

SECRETARY/Office Co-ordinator. A lively Estate Agents in Kensington require an enthusiastic & efficient individual with excellent org. skills contact: Chris Drury 0171 371 2100

SHORTHAND secretaries x5 £18,000-22,000; urgently require exp sec's. Vac's property, Accountancy, Legal, Media and Banking etc. All partner/PA positions. NP(Agy) 0171 489 0111.

ST JAMES'S *Street SW1 £22,000* + Bups. Small dynamic Int. Consultancy seek PA/Sec to organise + support busy team of 3. Solid secretarial background ess. + exp in Finance or Management Consultancy is preferable. Age 25-35. King & Toben Rec 0171 629 9648.

SUPER-EFFICIENT, articulate, Secretary/PA with plenty of initiative and common-sense wanted to work for the MD of a medium sized Property Group in Kensington. Age 25+. Good telephone manner, computer literacy (WP4W), fast accurate shorthand & typing, and sense of humour essential. Very varied and confidential work. Well rewarded. Please apply with typed CV and hand written covering letter to Box No 3923

TWICKENHAM, £18,000. PA, 30+ to Chief Exec of International co. 3 month contract, possibly permanent, immediate start. 0171 493 7001, SECRETARIES PLUS, the secretarial consultants.

VICTORIA/Hyde Park. Large American Oil Co. req professional, ambitious secretary to supp team. Would suit highly *flexible PA with excellent* Sec/admin skills plus Word, Excel and Powerpoint. £20,000 + free gym, free restaurant, pension, and health cover, 25 days hols. King & Toben Recruitment 0171 629 9648

TEMPTING TIMES

ABSOLUTELY fabulous temping in the West End. We are a privately owned consultancy with a personal approach and friendly and interesting clients. We are currently looking for secretaries and receptionists to fill a variety of bookings. Competitive rates of pay. Call Jo Tennant at Susan Doughty Recruitment on 0171 491 7911 NOW!

TEMPTING TIMES

IT ADMIN/SEC - do you have experience in an IT co or working on an IT help-desk? Major London co, in process of ongoing Windows upgrade, seeks clued-up temp to provide support to hard-pressed IT manager. Some sec support also required. Rate £9.00 per hour. Please call 0171-494 4466 Gordon Yates Recruitment.

STUDENTS 18-23. General office work. Covent Garden Bureau *0171 495 8822 Agy.*

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

WATFORD, fast growing finance co. need Recruitment officer C£20-22K. Also customer liaison people. c£20-22K. Unique 0181 455 8187.

RECEPTION SELECTION

MAYFAIR Reception - £18,000. This well known group of companies in the Media industry is looking for a Career Receptionist to work in their prestigious Mayfair offices. This is a high profile front-of-house role which will also involve some office managerial responsibilities. Excellent presentation and communication skills are essential along with a minimum of one year's reception experience. *Call Angela Mortimer Plc on 0171 287 7788.*

RECEPTION/ Typist £14 - 16K + Bens. WC2. Well presented, articulate, receptionist required for this fast paced, exciting Advertising Co. Previous Exp + 40 wpm copy Knowledge of W4W + Excel. Please telephone Eve Sinclair for an immediate interview on 0171 499 8112 Recruit Plc

RECEPTIONIST for small corporate W.1. co. with an impressive portfolio seek a young, professional with W/W + 50wpm. Excellent opportunity for an immaculately presented 2nd or 3rd jobber. 0171-493 2888 Heritage Rec.

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■ FESTIVALS

From Hollywood actress Kathleen Turner, treading the boards in Chichester this year . . .

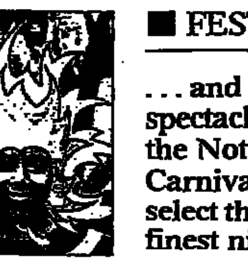
■ FESTIVALS

. . . and Sir Simon Rattle, who conducts a concert in an exciting Bath fortnight . . .

THE TIMES ARTS

■ FESTIVALS

. . . to the City of London's celebration of Dracula's 100 years in the cinema . . .



■ FESTIVALS

. . . and fabulous spectacle at the Notting Hill Carnival: we select this summer's finest nights out

Premieres and pop stars, carnivals and choruses: **Gillian Maxey** previews the best of the British festivals

Top festival delights of summer '97

JEREMY YOUNG

Busking below the battlements: the casual fun of the vast Edinburgh Fringe — the world's biggest cultural jamboree — has spawned imitations around the country

APRIL

Chichester Theatre: *A starry line-up for the Festival Theatre's summer season: Ian McShane, Stephanie Beacham, Googie Withers, Maureen Lipman and the Hollywood actress Kathleen Turner. Plays include *The Admirable Crichton*, *Lady Windermere's Fan*, *Blithe Spirit*, *Our Betters*, and *Divorce Me Darling!*, Sandy Wilson's high-kicking sequel to *The Boyfriend*.
April 1[illegible]-Sept 27 (01243 781312)

MAY

Bath: Now in its 48th year. Classical, contemporary and jazz music, together with modern art, explore the theme "Resurrection". The Contemporary Music Weekend, with trail-blazing composer Iannis Xenakis, is an exciting addition, and the Clerical Medical Jazz Weekend makes a welcome return. Highlights include the Opening Night celebrations, Sir Simon Rattle, James Galway, Emma Kirkby, Steven Isserlis and an extensive Fringe Festival.
May 16-June 1 (01225 463362)

Beverley and East Riding: Early music binge celebrates its tenth anniversary and new name with a musical journey through medieval North Africa, Renaissance Europe and 18th-century London. The Gabrieli Consort and Fretwork lead the way.
May [illegible]-11 (01482 884354)

BOC Covent Garden, London: Two weeks of opera and music theatre in the cultural heart of London embraces the contrasting themes of "Venetian Splendour" and "American Pizazz". Highlights include British Youth Opera's new production of *The Gondoliers*, the San Francisco music revue, *Beach Blanket Babylon*, and Stephen Sondheim's cult musical, *Anyone Can Whistle*.
May 26-June 7 (0171-312 1992)

Brighton: Colourful international festival encompassing the anniversaries of Schubert and Brahms. Premieres include *Danton's Tod*, Gottfried von Einem's French Revolution opera, Joshua Sobol's *The Village*, and *Waiora* by Maori playwright Hone Kouka. Contemporary and classical music, dance, literature and debate, films and exhibitions run concurrently with a programme of street theatre.
May 3-25 (01273 676926)

Schubert fêted in Sheffield, Brighton and Malvern

Bury St Edmunds: Seventeen days *en fête* in the historic market town. Highlights include a Michael Tippett UK premiere, the world premiere of *The Roswell Incident* by Music Theatre Wales, drama from Method and Madness and jazz from Carla Bley. Also, poetry, films, dance, street theatre, comedy and a Viennese firework finale.
May 9-25 (01284 759505)

Chelmsford Cathedral: Chamber, choral and keyboard music, sandwiched between orchestral concerts by the Britten Sinfonia and Academy of St Martin in the Fields. Other highlights include a production of *Warchild* by National Youth Music Theatre, jazz from John Dankworth and Cleo Laine, and a fringe programme of talks, film, poetry and drama.
May 7-17 (01245 359890)

Glasgow Mayfest: Citywide celebration of the arts, including music, dance, theatre, comedy, visual arts, film, magic and storytelling. Opera: Sir Peter Maxwell Davies's controversial *Resurrection*. Dance: UK premieres from Compania Antonio Gades and Les Ballets Africains. Theatre: Hector MacMillan's new play, *A Greater Tomorrow*, about Scots who fought in the Spanish Civil War.
May 1-24 (0141-552 8444)

Glyndebourne: Six operas, 74 performances. New productions of Puccini's *Manon Lescaut* (directed by Graham Vick, conducted by John Eliot Gardiner in his Glyndebourne debut) and Rossini's comic opera, *Le Comte Ory* (directed by Jérôme Savary). Revivals of Britten's *Owen Wingrave*, Mozart's *Le nozze di Figaro*, Janáček's *The Makropulos Case* and Handel's *Theodora*. Tickets from £10 to £114.
May 18-August 24 (01273 813813)

Leeds: Music, mostly jazz, inspired by the roots and rhythms of New Orleans, Africa, South America, Russia, Germany, the West Indies and the mystery of the Far East.
May 7-11 (0113-243 2491)

Malvern: Elgar in the Malvern Hills, plus Schubert and Brahms. Concerts by resident musician Tasmin Little, the Chilingirian Quartet with Raphael Wallfisch, and the New Queen's Hall Orchestra.
May 30-June 7 (01684 572725)

Newbury: A fortnight of festive entertainment. Percussionist Evelyn Glennie, cellist Julian Lloyd Webber, mezzo-soprano Sarah Walker, guitarist Julian Bream, jazz from Humphrey Lyttelton.
May 10-24 (01635 32421)

Perth: Festival amid breathtaking scenery, including French chamber music with pianist Pascal Rogé, Quatuor Parissi and London Winds. Artists include the Moscow State Symphony Orchestra and Helen Shapiro, while the film festival looks at "Scotland on the Silver Screen".
May 23-June 1 (01738 472706)

Sheffield: The Lindsays and friends explore Schubert and Brahms at this year's Music in the Round May Festival.
May 10-24 (0114-276 9922)

JUNE

Aldeburgh: Founded by Britten, the Suffolk festival celebrates its half century with two premieres by Mark-Anthony Turnage: the music theatre piece, *The Country of the Blind*, based on a story by H.G. Wells, and *Twice Through the Heart*, a 30-minute dramatic *scena* with mezzo-soprano Sally Burgess. All three of Britten's Church Parables are performed on the same day, and Tabea Zimmermann gives the world premieres of Alexander Goehr's Viola Concerto and Britten's 1932 Double Concerto for Violin and Viola.
June 13-27 (01728 453543)

City of London: St Mary-le-Bow's bells will ring out at the start of three weeks of opera, concerts, recitals, jazz, literary events, films and walks in the Square Mile. Highlights include a unique concert dramatisation of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, one hundred years of *Dracula* on film, choral concerts commemorating the tercentenary of St Paul's Cathedral, and the world premiere of Bernstein's *The White House Cantata*.
June 19-July 10 (0171-377 0540)

Garsington: Operas on the terrace of the Jacobean manor, including the first British performance of Richard Strauss's *Die Aegyptische Helena* (directed by David Fielding). Haydn's *Le Pescatrici* (directed by Robert David MacDonald) and Mozart's *Cosi fan tutte* (directed by Ian Judge).
June 9-July 6 (01865 361636)

Glastonbury: The biggest and best of the summer rock festivals returns to the Somerset countryside after a two-year absence. This year's "cultural experience" promises 1,000 performances on 17 stages by more than 500 bands. Other entertainments include theatre, cabaret, comedy, circus performances, a children's adventure play area and educational workshops. Book early to avoid disappointment.
June 27-29 (information 0839 668899), (tickets 01179 767868)

Ludlow: *Much Ado About Nothing* (directed by Glen Walford) is this year's alfresco Shakespeare in the Castle. Plus An Evening with Joanna Trollope, David Jacobs Goes Name Dropping, a repeat of last year's Legends of the Sixties concert and A Tribute to Freddie Mercury and Queen.
June 21-July 6 (01584 872150)

Lufthansa Baroque Music, London: A banquet of Baroque music in the delightful setting of Christopher Wren's church of St James in Piccadilly. Joshua Rifkin, La Romanesca, Concerto Italiano, Musica Antiqua Köln and Emma Kirkby among the early music luminaries taking part.
June 6-28 (0171-228 6388)

St Magnus: The Orkneys' annual arts bash. Music from the Scottish Chamber Orchestra, Kathryn Stott, Per Vollestadt, the Yggdrasil String Quartet of Aberdeen, music ensemble Psappha, and "Orkneyinga" — drama, dance and *music in the community*. Poetry by Kenneth White.
June 20-25 (01856 872669)

Spitalfields, London: Music — classical, contemporary and early — in Hawksmoor's Christ Church. *Premieres from Judith Weir and* David Bedford; Mendelssohn's Opus 44 quartets; mixed programmes from Fretwork, Westminster Cathedral Choir, Joyful Company of Singers and the Fine Arts Ensemble. Education and community events.
June 4-25 (0171-377 0287)

Montserrat Caballé: sings in Llangollen in July

Stour: Baroque and Renaissance music with Lynne Dawson, the Orlando Consort, Florilegium, *et al*, in the Pilgrim Church, Broughton Aluph, Kent. Opera Restor'd performs Lampe's comic opera, *The Dragon of Wantley*.
June 20-29 (01233 812740)

Thaxted: Four weekends of music in the medieval village rejoice in the theme Courts, Coronations and Celebrations, with performances by the Britten Sinfonia, Gabrieli Consort and Players, the London Ragtime Orchestra and Kenny Ball and his Band.
June 20-July 13 (01371 831421)

JULY

BBC Henry Wood Promenade Concerts: From the First Night to the Last, the 103rd season of the Proms will feature more than 70 concert performances and semi-stagings in the magnificent setting of the Albert Hall. Schubert, Mendelssohn, Brahms and Bartók are among the composers. The *Proms Guide* will be available from late April.
July 18-September 13 (0171-765 5575)

Buxton: Opera in the Peak District spa town, complemented by orchestral concerts, chamber music, cabaret, jazz, masterclasses, the Young Artists series and festival masses. Resident baritone Donald Maxwell features in a triple bill of comic opera. Performances of Haydn's *Life on the Moon* and John Alver's *music theatre piece*, *My Dear Mozart*.
July 11-27 (01298 70395)

Cambridge: Performing arts are the focus of this year's CamFest (*June 10-July 19*), while the Grassroots Festival of New Writing (*June 23-July 19*) and the Shakespeare Festival (*June 30-end August*) provide something for everyone. Early music throughout July and August, Pop in the Park (*July 11*) and the best in folk, blues, country and roots at the Folk Festival (*July 25-27*).
June-August (01223 463363)

Cheltenham Music: Busy international festival incorporating classical, modern, symphony, chamber and solo recitals. An Austro-Germanic theme embraces the various anniversaries of Brahms, Schubert and Mendelssohn. Plus a Schwertsik premiere and Berlin cabaret songs. Music by Ockeghem and Poulenc, early music, jazz, film and music theatre.
July 5-20 (01242 237377)

Chester: Summer music in the *city's beautiful Grosvenor Park*, with artist-in-residence, pianist Joanna MacGregor. Opera, with soloists Lesley Garrett and Bonaventura Bottone, the music of Andrew Lloyd Webber, soprano Felicity Lott, the Orlando Consort, folk singer June Tabor and the Chester Mystery Plays.
July 11-26 (01244 320722)

Chichester Festivities: A fireworks spectacular launches 17 days of entertainment, played out in the magnificent Norman cathedral and its environs. Symphony concerts, chamber music and jazz vie with exhibitions, opera, alternative comedy and celebrity lecturers (including *Times* columnist Libby Purves).
July 4-20 (01243 785718)

Fishguard: The composer Alun Hoddinott presides over a popular mix of choral, orchestral and recital music, this year celebrating the musical genius of Schubert and Steinway. Pianist Cécile Ousset and string ensemble Quatuor Parissi lead a friendly invasion from France to the Pembrokeshire coastal town and nearby St David's Cathedral.
July 25-August 2 (01348 873612)

Greenwich and Docklands: Entering its second year of international programming, the festival begins a special relationship with Barcelona with a recreation of the city's celebrated *Dies de Dansa* festival in the grounds of the Royal Naval College, and performances by pianist Alicia de Larrocha and jazz maestro Tete Montoliu. Irvine Welsh's cutting-edge theatre piece, *Headstate*, and music from the Michael Nyman Band, Jools Holland, I Fagiolini and the Academy of Ancient Music add spice to the menu.
July 11-20 (0181-305 1818)

Harrogate: World-class entertain*ment in the splendid spa town*. International symphony orchestras, soprano Felicity Lott, Django Bates and Carol Kidd at the jazz fest, street theatre and Laffs at the Baths.
July 25-August 9 (01423 562303)

Henley: Music and the arts on the banks of the Thames. Lesley Garrett and the BBC Concert Orchestra return to the floating stage. Plus jazz and humour from the Temperance Seven, the band of the Royal Air Force, laser displays, fireworks, dance bands, cabaret, living sculpture, and Last Night flagwaving with mezzo-soprano Sarah Walker.
July 9-12 (01491 411353)

King's Lynn: Cultures of the world unite with the help of Emma Kirkby, the Kirov Chamber Choir, Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, flamenco by candlelight and a production of *The Merchant of Venice*.
July 19-August 2 (01553 773578)

Lichfield: *Lesley Garrett, Melvyn* Tan, the BBC Philharmonic and massed American choirs mark the *anniversaries of Schubert, Brahms* and Mendelssohn — and the 85th anniversary of the sinking of the *Titanic* (whose captain was a native of Staffordshire).
July 4-13 (01543 257298)

Llangollen Eisteddfod: Six magical days of music, song and dance in North Wales. International choirs in daily competitions and evening concerts, and folk dancers in colourful national costume. Montserrat Caballé, Joanna MacGregor, King's College Choir and the London Adventist Chorale drop by.
July 8-13 (01978 860236)

Glastonbury: the monster is back after a two-year absence

Phoenix: Britain's only four-day pop festival ranks alongside Glastonbury for attracting the happening acts of the year. Seven stages of music vie with comedy, funfairs and a circus.
July 17-20 (0181-963 0940)

Warwick and Leamington: Early music, jazz, orchestral concerts, choral music and exhibitions amid the glorious architecture of medieval and Georgian Warwick and Regency Leamington. *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Treasure Island* and Viennese evenings with fireworks at the Castle.
July 2-13 (01926 496277)

Womad: Family-orientated festival of world music, workshops, arts and crafts beside the Thames in Reading. Headline acts: Burning Spear, Mory Kante, Faithless, Ravi Shankar and Carlinhos Brown.
July 25-27 (0118-939 0930)

York Early Music: Medieval churches, historic houses and ancient guildhalls house Britain's biggest festival of early music. The human voice is celebrated with performances of Handel's *Belshazzar* by the King's Consort and Monteverdi's *The Return of Ulysses* by Opera North. Also taking part, the Choir of King's College Cambridge, the BBC Singers, and Italian ensemble La Reverdi in its *British debut*.
July 4-13 (01904 658338)

AUGUST

Arundel: Shakespeare's *All's Well That Ends Well* in the castle grounds and concerts in the Barons' Hall. Fireworks, jazz, family shows, folk, art gallery trail and Felicity Lott.
August 22-31 (01903 883690)

Edinburgh International: Fiftieth anniversary celebrated with a look back to the premieres and highlights of the past. Visiting artists to Scotland's capital will include the Royal Opera, San Francisco Ballet, Rotterdam Philharmonic, Bryn Terfel, Mikhail Pletnev and Steven Isserlis. Innovative theatre and outrageous stand-up in the enormous Fringe festival (*Aug 10-30, 0131-226 5257*), preceded by the syncopated rhythms of the Jazz and Blues fest (*Aug 2-10, 0131-557 1642*). *International Festival August 10-30 (0131-226 4001)*

Edinburgh Film: International festival featuring David Lynch's *The Highway*, a retrospective of director Edgar G. Ulmer and a new focus on documentaries. *The Graduate* is the subject of this year's popular *Scene by Scene*.
August 10-24 (0131-228 4051)

Hereford, Three Choirs: Europe's oldest choral festival celebrates the anniversaries of Schubert, Mendelssohn and Brahms, with birthday tributes to the composers John Gardner, John Joubert and Paul Patterson. Premieres include a new choral and orchestral work by Judith Bingham and *Paradise Lost*, a new choral work based on Milton's epic poem, complemented by a lively Fringe.
August 17-22 (01432 274455)

Notting Hill: Annual celebration of black culture explodes onto the streets of London amid a carnival atmosphere of music, dance and spectacular costumes. Two million spectators expected.
August 24-25 (0181-964 0544)

Reading: Long-established, unadulterated rock festival with a reputation for attracting the top names from America.
August 22-24 (0181-963 0940)

V97: Last year's newcomer to the rock scene, V96, enters its second year under the patronage of Virgin Cola Company. Headline acts at Hylands Park in Chelmsford and at Newsam Park in Leeds are expected to include the Prodigy, Blur, Kula Shaker, Beck and the Foo Fighters.
August 16 and 17 (0171-734 8932)

SEPTEMBER

North Wales, St Asaph: Music with the emphasis on youth, hence appearances by the National Youth Choir and Chamber Orchestra of Wales and a host of young artists. New works by Pwyll ap Sion, Lyn Davies and resident composer Alun Hoddinott, presented in the magnificent cathedral.
September 20-27 (01745 584508)

Windsor: Peter Donohoe and Travelling Opera in the Castle, James Bowman and the Consort of Viols at Eton College.
September 21-October 5 (01753 623400)

OCTOBER

Canterbury: The Royal Shakespeare Company, the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, Phoenix Dance Company and George Gershwin's centenary. Classical concerts in the cathedral nave and intimate recitals in the crypt. Jazz and opera in the Marlowe Theatre, world music, folk and blues in the Festival Club.
October 11-25 (01227 452853)

Cheltenham Literature: Readers and writers come together in a carnival atmosphere for a varied programme of talks, lectures, debates, poetry readings, exhibitions and cutting-edge drama.
October 10-19 (01242 227979)

Dance Umbrella, London: Contemporary dancers from Britain and abroad gather in the South Bank Centre, the Place and Riverside Studios. Workshops, dance films and meet-the-artist sessions.
October 21-mid November (0181-741 5881)

Norfolk and Norwich: East Anglia's burgeoning festival of the performing arts with more than 120 events in and around Norwich celebrating the theme *My Country*. Orchestral concerts, jazz, dance, theatre, comedy — and the stage premiere of William Alwyn's opera, *Miss Julie*.
October 8-19 (01603 764764)

● ***A guide to European festivals* will appear on April 2**

■ VISUAL ART

Vermeer and I: David Hockney talks about the influences behind his new *flower paintings*

■ MUSIC 1

Zubin Mehta conducts an uneasy concert to mark the golden jubilee of Indian independence

THE TIMES
ARTS

■ MUSIC 2

. . . while Mark Wigglesworth steers his Welsh orchestra through an exhilarating Stravinsky night

■ TOMORROW

How does *Star Wars* rate, second time round? Read Geoff Brown on this week's film releases.

How does his garden grow?

David Hockney tells **Richard Cork** why his forthcoming London show will be full of exuberant flower paintings

By choosing flowers as the main subject of his new London exhibition, David Hockney is impishly aware that he offers us a challenge. "I know that there's a prejudice against flower paintings," he says, pacing around the spectacular sky-lit room at the Annely Juda gallery for a trial hang of his luminous canvases. "I also realise that artists have rarely made memorable pictures of flowers, but I chose them as *a theme to cheer myself up.*" Besides, he likes the idea of breaking all those taboos about chocolate-box prettiness. "My first idea for the show's title," he says with an anarchic grin, "was *F*** You, They're All Flowers.*"

Despite Damien Hirst's ever-burgeoning notoriety, Hockney remains Britain's best-known and most popular contemporary artist. Strangely, though, he has not staged a large exhibition of new work on a London dealer's premises for 20 years. As if to compensate, the Juda show is his biggest ever in a commercial gallery: more than 30 small portraits will be hung in the room below the display of 18 still-life paintings. But why has there been such a long gap?

"Well, I've spent a lot of time working in the theatre, and I don't do enough painting," he explains. Hockney comes over to England from his Californian home about four times a year, but principally to stay with his family in Yorkshire. Portraits of his relatives will be included in the exhibition, testifying to his belief that sitters should already have familiar faces: "if you don't know them, you don't know enough about them".

His family relationships are especially close. "My mother's 96, and she can hear better than I can," he says wryly, saddled now with hearing aids in both ears. But he looks sprightly. Approaching his 60th birthday in July, he claims to "feel about 30". And he shifts incessantly in his chair during our conversation, smoking Camel cigarettes while forever thrusting out his arms with instinctive theatricality to reinforce the flow of words.

The starting-point for the flower pictures, all painted in a great rush of enthusiasm last year, was a visit to the Vermeer retrospective at The Hague. "I was incredibly impressed," he recalls. "Although Vermeer's colour is more than 300 years old, it'll last longer than MGM's. I was amazed at how dull everything seemed when you came out of the show." So the often startling brightness of Hockney's flower pictures can be seen, in part at least, as his *exhilarated and competitive* response to Vermeer's radiance.

They are also, perhaps more significantly, the outcome of his desire to scrutinise the thing itself. In the past, he has often worked from photographs or his own imagination. But this time he worked only from life. "I've always had flowers in *the house,*" *he says.* "And since Los Angeles is semi-tropical, even the most exotic ones are easy to get hold of. But for these paintings, I arranged them carefully in the studio. By playing with the lighting, I can *make the shadows go anywhere.*"

> ❛ Although Vermeer's colour is more than 300 years old, it'll last longer than MGM's ❜

Viewed from a distance, the results look highly illusionistic. Nothing could appear more palpable than the 30 sunflowers filling one of the largest canvases with their fierce chromatic brilliance. Seen close to, though, the paint becomes surprisingly thin and anti-descriptive, almost to the point of abstraction. Hockney is well aware of the paradox, and it fascinates him. "Friends said: 'When you paint so close to the picture, how do you know what it'll look like from way back?' "The answer is that Hockney is increasingly obsessed with the spatial experience of moving around his big studio. "The real subject of these flower paintings is space," he insists. "I react to something in space, to the way my eyes dance around the flowers."

Since we are sitting next to a small Mondrian painting of 1927, utterly rigorous in its austere pictorial structure, I ask Hockney how much he responds to thoroughgoing abstract art. "I found the Ad Reinhardt exhibition in New York incredibly beautiful," he says, "and finding a roomful of Ellsworth Kelly's paintings in a collector's house was like walking into a flower. In a way, everything is an abstraction if it's a picture."

Over the past few years, Hockney has pushed his own painting in an abstract direction. But these limpid flower pictures mark a change, and he clearly revelled in the particular character of the species he chose. The grand sunflowers canvas was inspired by a gift from his friend Jonathan Silver, whose Salts Mill gallery in Bradford has a permanent display of Hockney's work. "Jonathan sent me all these sunflowers for my birthday," he remembers with a grin.

Taking on such a subject meant, inevitably, risking comparison with Van Gogh. But Hockney did not feel daunted. On the contrary: he relished the challenge posed by the blazing sunflowers. "Yellow is not a common colour in painting," he says, "but Van Gogh said it was the colour of hope. People are timid about colour, they don't like it."

Hockney manifestly does. He basks in the brazen, festive impact of the flowers in these unfettered canvases. But he is conscious, too, of their ability to symbolise transience. Even the most innocuous of 17th-century Dutch flower paintings can easily turn out to be a memento mori. And Hockney, when pressed, admits that "I'm interested in fragility as a subject". He found himself painting the flowers fast, in order to ensure that they did not wither and perish before he had finished. "Every single day they altered, and I even saw a cactus growing when I included it in a still life with lemons." Change fascinates him as much as space, and the speed with which Hockney worked undoubtedly contributes to the pictures' liveliness. "Flowers shoot upwards in great celebratory bursts," he says eagerly, waving his hands in the air as if to mimic the eruptive impact of a firework display.

He has, of course, painted flowers before: one of his most-reproduced works, *Mr and Mrs Clark and Percy,* includes a particularly appealing vase of white lilies on a low table. But never before has Hockney devoted such single-minded energy to the subject, nor produced so many flower paintings in a sustained bout of exploration.

He finds working alone in the studio is a tonic after spending a major part of his time on demanding, and often exhausting, opera designs. "I've finished with the theatre now," he says. "It's an ephemeral art, making me give months and months to something that only lasts a few hours. In the theatre, collaboration means compromise, and I'd rather get back to painting on my own. I take out my hearing aids and work in complete silence."

He only stopped painting flowers last year because his opera commitments obliged him to visit Australia for two major productions. "But when I return to California now, I shall just go back to flowers again. For me, it's a terrific subject."

Does the Juda exhibition mean that he is becoming more involved with London, or will he spend the rest of his life in the Californian sun? "I'm a bit claustrophobic," he confesses, "and that's why I live in LA. I like big, white, open spaces. I love the vastness of the American West. England is small, and I've been abroad too long to come back now."

● *David Hockney's exhibition,* Flowers, Faces and Spaces, *opens at Annely Juda Fine Art, 23 Dering Street, London W1 (0171-629 7578) on May 1*

PETER NICHOLLS

David Hockney in front of *30 Sunflowers*: "I react to the way my eyes dance around the flowers"

Saving our soul

LEWIS TAYLOR'S excellent debut album last year was a cultural conundrum: white men simply are not supposed to be this soulful. *Lewis Taylor* manages to be cool and contemporary but also deeply reverential to its rock and soul heritage. *It is the sound of* what might have happened if Marvin Gaye and Jimi Hendrix had made an album together with Brian Wilson as producer.

With the help of some celebrity endorsements from David Bowie and others, momentum is still building for the album more than six months after its release. And thanks to this intelligent booking, Taylor has made Ronnie Scott's the place to bring an enquiring musical mind during March with a run of Sunday night shows.

POP

Lewis Taylor
Ronnie Scott's, W1

Opening with Whoever, he and his band were at once well drilled and in repose, dangling the track's persuasive groove in front of a crowded room like a hypnotist's pendulum. "Be prepared," he sang, "things can get a little bit tasty," accurately foretelling the invigorating hour that followed.

Taylor has learnt Gaye's soul vocabulary from A to Z, elongating the vowel in the word "baby" like a true lost son of Motown, but he can peel off a lick like the prog-rock fan he also is, and sings of vexed modern relationships with a lyrical touch that would bring a smile from Curtis Mayfield.

So he may have the keys to the Motor City — achievement enough for a boy from Barnet in north London — but Taylor has also cracked the combination of electric guitar, full-flavour funk and rich harmonies that kept their shape on stage. *Track* and *Damn* went beyond his finger-snapping norm, making you want to sing along, and the forthcoming single *Bittersweet* was aptly named.

Most endearingly, Taylor is not at home to pretentious solemnity, smiling with his bandmates and thanking us sincerely. The theory that Caucasian soulfulness begins and ends with Jamiroquai may need some adjustment.

PAUL SEXTON

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CONCERTS: Shankars with sitars and Mahler makes three; celebrating Stravinsky; new baritone on the block

Bombay to Vienna

Indian independence may be sufficiently ancient history for its 50th anniversary to be celebrated, as it was by the London Symphony Orchestra on Monday night, without political embarrassment. Whether traces of cultural hegemony can be so easily masked is another *matter.*

The evening was a festive one, presenting, in the first half, works by Indian composers, and in the second half Mahler's First Symphony, all *conducted by the Bombay*-born Zubin Mehta. Ravi Shankar, the former guru now nearly 77, appeared with his 15-year-old daughter Anoushka in his own Concerto No 1 for Sitar and Orchestra of 1971, and it was here that the cultural mix seemed most *problematic. When Shankar* gives himself the space to ruminate, unimpeded by orchestral interspersions, he is at his most evocative, but when he has the strings racing around like headless chickens, the result is anonymous.

The third movement (*Rāga Adanā*) *begins* atmospherically with horns and upper strings, before lower strings and wind sustain quiet octaves under a beautiful sitar solo. This minimal interaction works well, but all too soon we are back to the characteristic racing figures. With the final movement come lively antiphonal exchanges and passages of invigorating complexity for the two sitars and drums.

The precise role of Miss Shankar — her part rarely seemed independent — was unclear, but the sight of revered icon and glamorous daughter seated together on the floor brought them a standing ovation.

LSO/Mehta
Barbican

Naresh Sohal's *Satyagraha*, commissioned by the LSO for the occasion, positively invited disaster by dramatising the struggle for independence by way of the Indian tune *Ram Dhun* and the British supremacist anthem *Rule, Britannia*. The latter is offensively brassy and is finally subdued by the meditative *Ram Dhun*. But *aside from a few exotic effects* involving harp and celeste, we were back here to the less-than-imaginative block scoring of Sohal's compatriot.

A moment of suspended animation in the first movement of Mahler's Symphony No 1 made the coupling seem less arbitrary. In any case this is a repertoire on which Mehta has an individual take. Characteristic were his exhilarating dash to the finish of the first movement, and the ubiquitous startling gestures (in all departments, not least percussion). But the faraway, dreamy lullaby of the third movement was also nicely conceived, and if the dance *music is indeed a Jewish* wedding, then the E flat clarinet was a spectral guest.

BARRY MILLINGTON

Too full facial

SUCH is the Wigmore Hall's voracious appetite for Lieder that the mere whisper of a new young baritone is enough to send its audience into a frenzy of expectation. So the burden on 24-year-old **Stephan Genz** was a heavy one in this recital of Schumann and Wolf. This may have accounted for the eagerness to please, which was at its most acute in the opening Schumann settings of Heinrich Heine's poetry.

The voice is an open, light baritone: but its presence was often masked by that of Genz-as-performer. Like a mime artist, his eyes, face, and entire body language vividly communicated each poem's bright *tableau. Yet here,* and *in the* Heine *Liederkreis* which followed, this semi-staging became trying, and too few phrases were really sung through. In short, one longed for more voice, less face.

Genz/McGreevy
Wigmore Hall

Throughout, Roger Vignoles's piano playing was thrillingly eloquent. In order to match it, Genz will have to calm down a little, breathe more deeply, take a step away from his teachers and simply allow his voice to *sing* more.

Geraldine McGreevy, winner of the 1996 Kathleen Ferrier Award, also made a somewhat tentative debut at the Wigmore Hall, but for almost diametrically opposite reasons. In a highly imaginative programme, which included music by Roussel, Warlock, Hugh Wood, Schumann and Strauss, McGreevy revealed a beautifully groomed, sweetly melodic soprano, but a somewhat bland performance.

McGreevy has a natural talent for the French repertoire, but for the disturbed doppelgänger of Hugh Wood's Robert Graves setting, *The Foreboding,* the voice has yet to discover its shadow side.

McGreevy, unlike Genz, needs to work harder at working her audience, and at focusing her responses more intensely on text and subtext.

HILARY FINCH

Stravinsky for all seasons

SUNDAY'S BBC National Orchestra of Wales concert was presented under the banner of two festivals, *Stravinsky: Rites of Spring* and *Sounding the Century,* so it was fitting that the programme felt so festive. It began with *Fireworks* and ended with *Petrushka,* two popular pieces which framed a pair of Stravinsky's less frequently played scores.

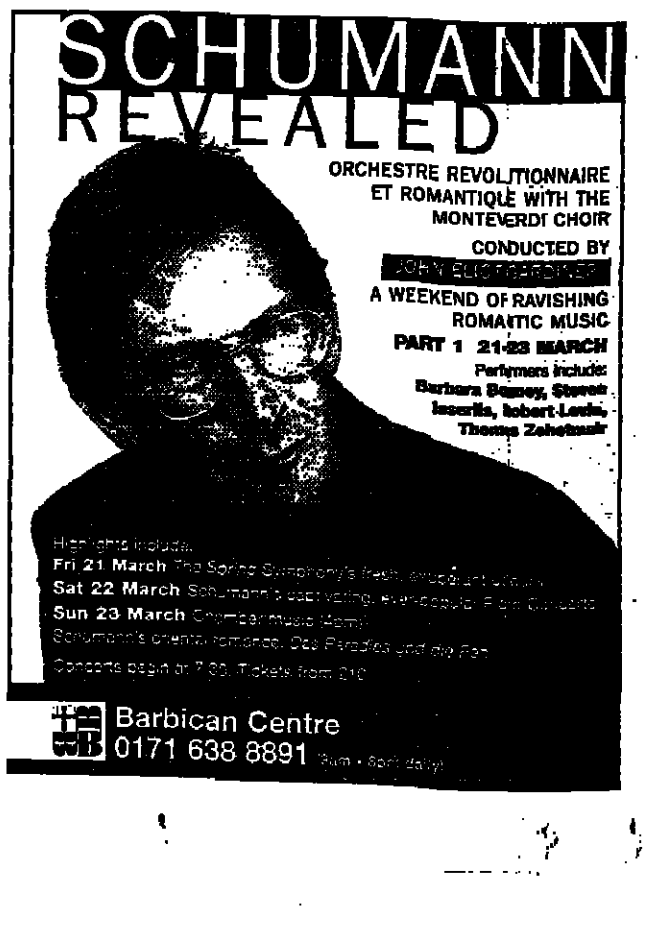
The programming was thoughtful. All the music came from the first two decades of Stravinsky's long, creative life, yet it showed how even early on the composer never ceased to reinvent himself. Nowhere was this better shown than in *Apollo,* perhaps the most humane of his Neo-Classical works. It is scored for strings alone, and written in a wistful musical language that suggests Elgar with a few "wrong notes" thrown in. Mark Wigglesworth, music director of the BBCNOW, conducted a deeply felt performance that was alert to the work's ingenious structure. He summoned up its calm serenity, but softened the edges of the opening almost too much.

BBCNOW/ Wigglesworth
Festival Hall

It was exciting to hear Stravinsky's seldom performed Op 2, *The Faun and the Shepherdess,* and there will be another chance to catch it when the concert is broadcast by Radio 3 tomorrow. With texts taken from Pushkin, it is a suite of three songs for mezzo-soprano and orchestra modelled on 19th-century styles. Tchaikovsky is evoked, but the music has a sound all of its own, especially when matching the sly eroticism of Pushkin's verses. Sarah Walker was the soloist, completely inside the idiom. *Fireworks,* a compact, exhilarating score dating from just two years after these songs, was the evening's only disappointment: *all* the colours were there, but the playing could have been tauter.

But there was no lack of brilliance or tightness in Wigglesworth's account of *Petrushka.* His conducting had both fluidity and precision; solos took on expressive freedom and the orchestra revelled in the big tunes. Street-cries and folksongs jostled each other in this picture of wintry St Petersburg, but this was no neo-folksy interpretation: in its bracing, spiky way it showed that *The Rite of Spring* was just around the corner.

JOHN ALLISON



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■ THEATRE

Satire of a very gentle variety comes in *Much Revue About Nothing*

■ CHOICE 1

Markus Stenz conducts Henze's opera, *Elegy for Young Lovers*

VENUE: Tonight at the Queen Elizabeth Hall

THE TIMES ARTS

■ CHOICE 2

Evelyn Glennie performs a pair of concertos for percussion

VENUE: Symphony Hall, Birmingham, tonight

■ CHOICE 3

Pinter's *The Caretaker* is revived in Southampton

VENUE: Opens tonight at the Nuffield Theatre

THEATRE: Satire without a sting; bleak drama in Edinburgh; Oirish mayhem at the Tricycle

To the weak that was

MARILYN KINGWILL

Pearly king and queen Susie Blake and Tony Whittle in *Much Revue About Nothing* at the King's Head

Intimate revue died around 1962. Maybe it was because *Beyond the Fringe* made every other stab at satire seem insipid, or because the bright new comics opted to take their sketches to *That Was The Week That Was*, or because cute, clever little songs came to strike most people as passé. And I must say that, fun though it mostly is, *Much Revue About Nothing*, the compilation of bits and bobs from the 1940s, 1950s and 1960s that Phillip George is staging at the King's Head, does not leave me avid for a revival of the genre. It is sometimes hard to feel enthusiasm when numbers are maladroit, mocking the maladroit, or not really maladroit at all.

Much Revue About Nothing
King's Head, N1

There is only one wholly spoken item, a slightly surreal sketch by Michael Bentine in which a murderous French husband mistakes the English translator in his living room for his wife's lover. Otherwise the evening consists of songs by composers and lyricists ranging from Julian (*Salad Days*) Slade through Vivian (*Spread a Little Happiness*) Ellis to Peter Cook. When a number about an old music-hall trouper who won over his audiences by telling them about his bad hip evolves into a woebegone send-up of banally upbeat songs ("Take a tip and you'll be glad: if you're happy you'll never be sad"), you hardly need to glance at the programme to identify the writer. That's Cook in his best funny-glum mode.

Only two songs retain much bite. Sheldon Harnick's well-known *Merry Minuet* — "The Italians hate the Dutch, and I don't like anyone very much" — would make a good signature tune for an era of paranoid nation-states with frightening weaponry at their disposal. Sandy (*The Boy Friend*) Wilson's *True Blue Love Song* is even more topical, though it presumably comes from the late Macmillan period. "Cocktails at seven, God's in his heaven," sings a Betjeman belle to her chinless wonder as they unpack their Jag. "Don't let Labour ruin it." But the objects of satire are more often the woman who dresses her dog in trousers, the couple who have a vampire baby, the girl who falls for a gorilla, and (another well-known number) the unstoppably garrulous woman who proposes to and then rejects the stranger she mistakes for an old beau.

The excellent cast — Susie Blake, Cameron Blakely, Jacqueline Charlesworth, Tony Whittle — spend a lot of time having fun at the expense of the dated and naff: a song about a bank clerk who loves the cha-cha-cha, another involving "two dainty bookends holding up dirty books".

But when they sang of the delights of April in Fairbanks, Alaska, or the joy of being very, very moderately in love, or when they sadistically launched into a number called *Oh Don't You Hate It When They Make You Sing Along*, I found myself drawn into the spirit of the thing. There are rewards here for nostalgia freaks — and for those who find nostalgia freakish.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

House of horrors

Refuge
Traverse, Edinburgh

DOMESTIC violence is all too common and all too well-hidden — as Janet Paisley's award-winning play, presented on tour by the Stellar Quines company, makes admirably clear. Set inside a soulless "safe house", *Refuge* thrusts a quartet of disparate survivors somewhat claustrophobically together. Ageing Agnes never goes out; Carolanne sits looking spick and span; Sadie calls a spade a shovel, especially where her teenaged son Gordon is concerned. All are watched over by Maggie, a well-meaning if confused care worker representing the drained resources of a starved social welfare system.

Into this raging calm is brought Beth, so traumatised by her suffering that she can barely talk. During the next two hours, the centre's uneasy peace is shattered as the women bicker, pull together and reveal their scars, each horror story worse than the last. All the while they live in fear of that dreaded knock on the door.

Although they are never seen on stage, it is men who dominate *Refuge*: from the mutilating doctor who sends Beth flowers to the wheedling telephone calls that prompt Carolanne to scuttle home, to Sadie slapping on her warpaint to go on the pull.

It would be unkind to suggest that *Refuge* won its Peggy Ramsay award for worthiness alone, for there is much to commend it, but as drama it has its failings. For all it addresses the awfulness of the women's situations and how the children suffer too, the first act of Gerda Stevenson's patchily acted production falls back on stereotypes and on aphorisms dressed up as dialogue. Only in the second act, when more narrative thrust comes into play, do matters improve.

Refuge is a cry of anguish at the results of domestic suffering, and although Paisley is not so naive as to offer instant solutions to a complex social ill, never once does the play attempt to get to the root of things and ask a very pertinent question. Why?

NEIL COOPER

Barmy blarney army

"I Doubt It" Says Pauline
Tricycle

JON KENNY and Pat Shortt, aka the D'Unbelievables, left perfectly reasonable jobs as writers and performers to impersonate a small galaxy of provincial Irish characters. The result has been routine chaos in the foyers and stalls of respectable theatres across the UK. For their last show, *One Hell Of A Do*, set on the eve and morning of a village wedding, the two comedians hauled half the audience out of their seats to act as bride, groom, family, guests and gatecrashers — an exhilarating piece of large-scale impro.

Much the same happens in *"I Doubt It" Says Pauline*, a farce in which the locals of Glengooly village gear up for their annual gala. With an array of wigs and unfeasibly large ears, the D'Unbelievables seamlessly work the dangerous gap between script and audience-baiting in their various guises as gossips, village idiots and self-important dignitaries.

There are some wonderful creations: the bald-headed teacher in his flared brown suit, orange shirt leaking through his zipper, ostentatiously picking his nose while giving notes to "young Mahoney" in the third row; the grizzled hurley coach who exhorts his team to come back with the blood of the opposition — never mind that they are all under 14.

But there is a flip side to all this local colour. The strident manipulation can look as themed and fake as Oirish bars. Even the thick brogue sounds suspiciously calculated at times, and the sense of 100-mile-an-hour forced entertainment can be fitfully tedious.

It is in their running commentary with the audience, and the incidentals, that the duo earn their keep. What they send up brilliantly are the quirks of Irish parochial life: the 18 pairs of shoes that have to be cleaned on Sunday morning, the announcement that the six o'clock bus for the gala will leave at "seven tirty sharp". If they didn't feel the compulsion to clown it quite so hard, a lot of this would be positively lyrical.

JAMES CHRISTOPHER

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Gillian Maxey

LONDON

ELEGY FOR YOUNG LOVERS Markus Stenz conducts the **London Sinfonietta** in his newly revised concert version of Henze's operatic score, which is inspired by a libretto by W.H. Auden and Chester Kallman. With Louisa Kenney-Richardson and Susannah Waters, soprano, and Susan Bickley, contralto
Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, SE1 (0171-960 4242) Tonight, 7.45pm.

LARS VOGT: This evening's recital by the pianist **Lars Vogt** features the two earliest and the two latest published piano works by Beethoven and Brahms. Sonata in F minor and six Bagatelles by Beethoven, and Brahms's Sonata in C and four Klavierstücke.
Wigmore Hall, Wigmore Street, W1 (0171-935 2141) Tonight, 7.30pm 🄱

ROSMERSHOLM: The award-winning Attic Theatre Company performs Ibsen's compelling psychological drama of small-town politicians and their moral maze, in a new translation by David Rudkin. Directed by Jenny Lee
Wimbledon Studio, 103 The Broadway, SW19 (0181-540 0362) *Opens tonight, 7.30pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm. Until April 12*

ELSEWHERE

ABERYSTWYTH. Sherman Theatre and Mappa Mundi present a Shakespeare double bill of *Julius Caesar* (tonight, mat Thurs) and *Henry V* (Friday and Saturday).
Arts Centre, *Penglais (01970 623232) Tonight-Sat, 7.30pm; mat Thurs, 1pm.*

BIRMINGHAM: The celebrated percussionist **Evelyn Glennie** performs two contrasting concertos: her own arrangement for vibraphone of Vivaldi's Concerto for Oboe, and Panufnik's Concertino for Percussion, Timpani and Strings. The programme begins with Mozart's *Overture, La Finta Giardiniera*, followed by the world premiere of David Bedford's *The Goddess of Mahi River*, which interweaves Indian musicians on sitar and tabla with flute and cello to form a solo quartet (**Shiva Nova**). Haydn's *Farewell* concerto, in which the musicians leave during the last movement, offers an amusing finale. With the **English Sinfonia** under Philip *Ellis, and Charles Fullbrook, timpani.*
Symphony Hall, Broad Street (0121-212 3333). Tonight, 8pm. 🄱

LIVERPOOL: The **Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra** premieres *Horn Horn*, Andrew Poppy's new concerto for two alto saxophones (soloists John Harle and Simon Haram) and orchestra (in six movements. *Conductor Sachio Fujioka also leads the orchestra in Tchaikovsky's Romeo and Juliet Fantasy Overture* and Prokofiev's Symphony No 5
Philharmonic Hall, Hope Street (0151-709 2895) Tonight, 7.30pm 🄱

SOUTHAMPTON: Roger Lloyd Pack plays the scheming tramp in Pinter's classic, **The Caretaker**. David Annen and Moray Treadwell are the two brothers who take him in. Daniel Buckroyd directs.
Nuffield, University Road (01703 671771) Opens tonight, 7.30pm. Then Mon-Thurs, 7.30pm, Fri, Sat, 8pm; mat Sat (March 22), 2.30pm. Until March 29.

LONDON GALLERIES

Alan Cristea: Ian McKeever: Colour Etching (0171-439 1866) . . . **Cadogan Contemporary**: Sargy Mann: Small Paintings 1987-1984 (0171-581 5451) **Catto**: Lélia Pissarro (0171-435 6660) **Chris Beetles**: Geraldine Girvan (0171-839 7551) . . . **Festival Hall**: Yoko Ono and the Fluxus Movement (0171-960 4242) . . . **Hart**: Derrick Greaves (0171-704 1131) . . . **Llewellyn Alexander**: Jeremy Barlow (0171-620 1322) . . . **Redfern**. William Gear: A Golden Jubilee Exhibition (0171-734 1732) . . . **Royal Over-Seas League**: Jackie Philip (0171-408 0214) . . . **Theo Waddington**: John Lessore (0171-494 1584) . . . **V & A**: The Cutting Edge: Fifty Years of British Fashion (0171-938 8349/8441)

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

■ **House full, returns only**
◩ **Some seats available**
☐ **Seats at all prices**

■ **ART**: David Haig, Anton Lesser and Mark Williams take over from the original cast in this interesting drama about friendship, unspoken resentment and an almost all-white painting
Wyndham's, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1736) Tue-Sat, 8pm; mats Wed, 3pm, Sat and Sun, 5pm. Until October 4

BADFINGER: After the success of last year's "Four Corners" season, this year's programme allows a fortnight's run for each of three plays. Kicking off is Wales's Thin Language Theatre Co with Simon Harris's surreal nightmare set in a junk shop, directed by Michael Sheen.
Donmar Warehouse, Earlham Street, WC2 (0171-369 1732) *Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Sat, 4pm. Until March 22*

☐ **BIRDY**: *Northern Exposure* actor Rob Morrow joins Kevin Knight's cast in Naomi Wallace's fascinating version of the William Wharton novel: a psychologically damaged GI (Matthew Wait) believes he is a bird. Or does he?
Comedy, Panton Street, SW1 (0171-369 1731). *Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 5pm*

◩ **THE HOMECOMING**: Pinter's unnerving comedy, set in a north London house where David Bradley's bullying Max leads the struggle to possess his eldest son's wife (Lindsay Duncan). Roger Michell directs
National (Lyttelton), South Bank, SE1 *(0171-928 2252). Tonight-Sat, 7.30pm; mat Sat, 2.15pm. In rep.*

■ **IVANOV**: Ralph Fiennes heads a splendid cast that includes Harriet Walter and Oliver Ford Davies, in Jonathan Kent's excellent production of Chekhov's first produced play.
Almeida, Almeida Street, N1 (0171-359 4404) Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Sat, 3pm. Until April 12

◩ **MACBETH**: Fascinating production by Tim Albery, with Roger Allam and Brid Brennan as Mr and Mrs Thane. Adrian Schiller is the funniest Porter ever seen.
Barbican, Barbican Centre, EC2 (0171-638 8891). Tonight and tomorrow, 7.15pm; mat Thurs, 2pm. In rep.

☐ **ROMANCE, ROMANCE**: Musical double-bill by Barry Harman and Keith Hermann, derived from a Schnitzler tale of love in old Vienna coupled with a modern version set on Long Island. Directed by Steven Dexter. Transfer from a sell-out run at the Bridewell
Gielgud, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 *(0171-494 5065) Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats* Thurs and Sat, 3pm.

◩ **WHO'S AFRAID OF VIRGINIA WOOLF?** Diana Rigg and David Suchet in Howard Davies's powerful Almeida production of Albee's searing play.
Aldwych, Aldwych, WC2 (0171-416 6003) *Mon-Sat*, 7.15pm, mat Sat, 2.15pm. Until March 22

☐ **WOMEN ON THE VERGE OF HRT**: Marie Jones and Eileen Pollock in love with Daniel O'Donnell. Hit Irish comedy but their daydreams are a bit obvious, somehow
Vaudeville, Strand, WC2 (0171-836 9987) Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mats Thurs and Sat, 3pm.

LONG RUNNERS

☐ **Blood Brothers**: Phoenix (0171-369 1733) . . . ☐ **Buddy**: Strand (0171-930 8800) . . . ☐ **The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)**: Criterion (0171-369 1737) . . . ◩ **An Inspector Calls**: Garrick (0171-494 5085) . . . ☐ **Jesus Christ Superstar**: Lyceum (0171-656 1807) . . . ◩ **Jolson**: Victoria Palace (0171-834 1317) ◩ **Les Misérables**: Palace *(0171-434 0909)* . . . ◩ **Miss Saigon**: Drury Lane (0171-494 5400) . . . ◩ **Oliver!**: Palladium (0171-494 5020) . . . ■ **The Phantom of the Opera**: Her Majesty's (0171-494 5400) . . . ◩ **Starlight Express**: Apollo Victoria (0171-416 6054) . . . ◩ **Sunset Boulevard**: Adelphi (0171-344 0055)

Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

NEW RELEASES

◆ **THE ENGLISH PATIENT** (15): Map-making Ralph Fiennes smoulders with passion for Kristin Scott Thomas. Epic, intelligent, though not worth the praise.
Barbican 🄱 (0171-638 8891) **Chelsea** (0171-351 3742) **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **Curzon West End** (0171-369 1722) **Gate** (0171-727 4043) **Odeons: Kensington** (0181-315 4214) **Marble Arch** (0181-315 4216) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **Phoenix** (0181-883 2233) **Plaza** (0990-888 990) **Renoir** (0171-837 8402) **Richmond** (0181-332 0030) **Rio** (0171-254 6677) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen on Baker Street** (0171-935 2772) **Screen on the Green** (0171-226 3520) **UCI Whiteleys** (0990-888 990) **Virgin Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Warner West End** (0171-437 4343)

◆ **THE EVENING STAR** (15): Maudlin sequel to *Terms of Endearment*, with Shirley MacLaine, Bill Paxton and Juliette Lewis. Director, Robert Harling
Odeons: Kensington (0181-315 4214) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **Virgin Haymarket** (0171-839 1527)

MOTHER NIGHT (15): American writer in Nazi Germany gets into trouble. *Absorbing adaptation of Kurt* Vonnegut's novel, with Nick Nolte
Curzon Phoenix (0171-369 1721) **Metro** (0171-437 0757)

NEVER TALK TO STRANGERS (18). Tame erotic thriller directed, surprisingly, by Peter Hall, with Rebecca DeMornay and Antonio Banderas.
Virgin Trocadero (0171-434 0031)

CURRENT

◆ **THE CRUCIBLE** (12): Weighty version of Arthur Miller's play about 17th-century witchcraft, with Winona Ryder, Daniel Day-Lewis and Paul Scofield
Barbican 🄱 (0171-638 8891) **Odeons: Kensington** (0181-315 4214) **Leicester Square** (0181-315 4215) **Marble Arch** (0181-315 4216) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **UCI Whiteleys** 🄱 (0990 888990) **Virgin Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Watermans** (0181-568 1176)

HAMLET (PG): Lavish, literal-minded Shakespeare, staged with some panache by Kenneth Branagh. With *Derek Jacobi and Kate Winslet.*
Curzon Mayfair (0171-369 1720)

◆ **MICHAEL** (PG): Ragged, indulgent romantic fable saved by John Travolta's starring role as an angel. With William Hurt and Andie MacDowell.
Odeon West End (0181-315 4221) **Virgin Chelsea** (0171-352 5096)

THE MIRROR HAS TWO FACES (PG). Barbra Streisand directs and stars in this absurd comedy-romance about teachers experimenting with a sexless marriage. With Jeff Bridges
Odeon Mezzanine 🄱 (0181-315 4215)

◆ **RANSOM** (15). Intermittently absorbing kidnap drama, with Mel Gibson, Rene Russo and Gary Sinise.
Odeons: Kensington (0181-315 4214) **Marble Arch** (0181-315 4216) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **West End** (0181-315 4221) **UCI Whiteleys** (0990 888990)

RIDICULE (15). Patrice Leconte's witty and diverting costume piece set in Louis XVI's court, with Fanny Ardant.
ABC Shaftesbury Avenue (0171-836 6279) **Minema** (0171-235 4225) **Virgin Chelsea** (0171-352 5096)

◆ **SHE'S THE ONE** (15): Amiable family comedy from Edward Burns. With Cameron Diaz and John Mahoney
Plaza 🄱 (0990 888990)

◆ **SHINE** (12): Child prodigy pianist crumples under the strain. Uplifting, often funny treatment of a true story from Australian director Scott Hicks
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Groups 0171 416 6075
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Eves 7.30. Wed & Sat mats 3

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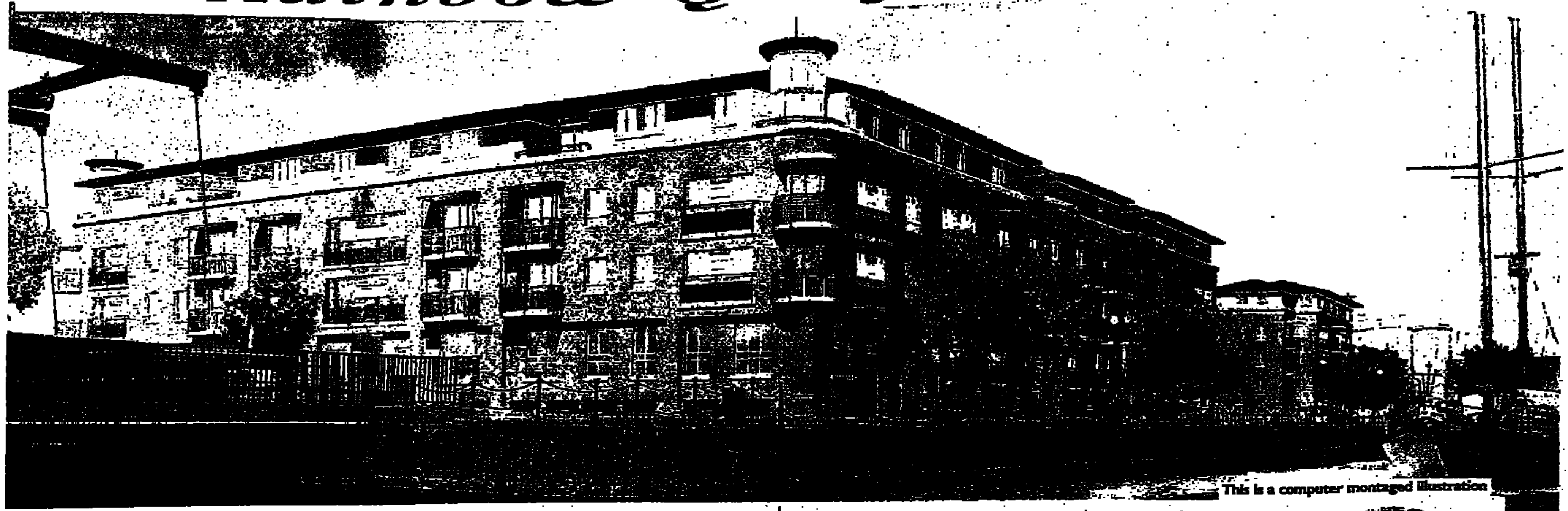

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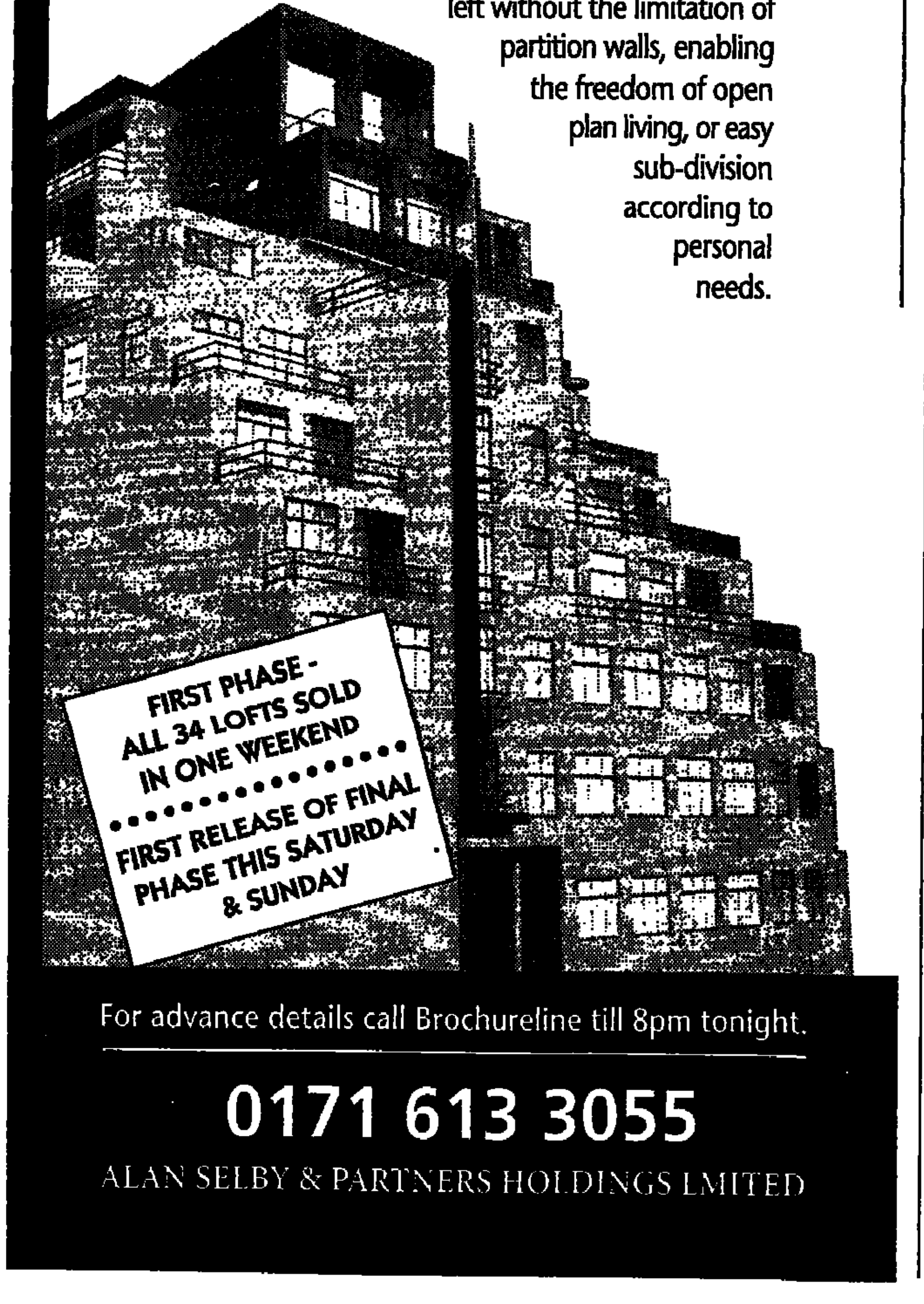

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With the general election fixed for May 1, we asked the three major parties to outline their policies for the future of Britain's housing

Our plans for the roof over your head

THE LABOUR PARTY

By Nick Raynsford, MP
Housing spokesman

Current housing policies and programmes are hopelessly inadequate. A new approach is called for. In Labour's view there are four overriding priorities. First, we must learn the lessons of the 1980s. At that time all too many people overstretched themselves, believing that once they got their foot on the bottom step of the housing market, the escalator would carry them up to greater personal wealth. They made a terrible mistake and paid a very heavy price for it.

While house prices may rise ahead of general inflation for a year or two as we come out of recession, it is not realistic to expect substantial year on year increases in house prices while general inflation is held to 2 per cent or lower.

We also need to take steps to protect homeowners from the misselling of mortgages and related products, from other abuses in the market and from the risk of unnecessary repossessions. Our proposals for tackling the re-emerging problem of gazumping have been widely welcomed, as have our plans for leasehold reform. Our flexible tenure proposals will both help people on modest incomes to progress by stages towards owner-occupation and assist others who, as a result of changing financial circumstance, might otherwise face the loss of their homes.

Labour offers a package of reforms to help to restore stability in the housing market and to provide new opportunities and safeguards for homeowners. At the same time we will revive the provision of social housing through local authorities, housing associations and new partnerships. This is the second key objective. We will release, on a phased basis, the receipts which councils have obtained from selling land and housing but which they are currently prevented from spending.

It must make sense to put these capital receipts back to use, building homes for the homeless and renovating run-down estates and, in the process, helping to generate jobs in the construction industry.

Thirdly, to increase flexibility in the market and opportunities for people to move areas, we will encourage a revival in good quality private rented accommodation. We support housing investment trusts as a mechanism for increasing institutional investment in private renting and will be looking closely at how we can help such bodies to develop in the years ahead.

We also need to break down the growing polarisation in housing which has created concentrations of poverty and deprivation in certain parts of our country. Indeed, measures to tackle unemployment, crime and vandalism are equally essential. But housing policies play a vital part. We must ensure that new developments provide opportunities for people to rent or to buy without undue segregation between the tenures.

We must also ensure that rent and benefit policies make it possible for people to get off benefit and into work. Helping to build strong and mixed communities is a vital part of a new housing policy.

Finally, we must tackle the backlog of poor condition properties in all tenures. New public/private partnership can help to bring private investment into areas of older, unmodernised council housing. A new approach towards home renovation policy can ensure that public money is used more effectively to lever in additional private investment and make it possible to develop strategic area-based renovation programmes.

A national licensing scheme for multi-occupied houses will help to raise standards in this sub-section of the market where the worst conditions are to be found, and at the same time reduce the tragic loss of life through fires and carbon monoxide poisoning in such premises.

Our new environmental task force will help to tackle the problem of hard-to-heat properties and in the process enable elderly people on low incomes to enjoy affordable warmth in the winter months.

WHERE I LIVE

I LIVE with my wife and three daughters in my constituency of Greenwich, *Nick Raynsford writes.* We have a comfortable house with plenty of space for us and our three cats. It is our only home. One of the great benefits of representing a London constituency is that one does not need to split one's life between separate London and constituency homes.

Our home is important to us and is a focus for a lot of activity. My wife, Anne, is a keen gardener and has spent much of the past four years transforming the garden. She and I share a study where we can work without getting under each other's feet.

I am very conscious of how lucky we are to have such a lovely home. It is a constant reminder of the benefit which people derive from having a secure base. It is one of my strongest political ambitions to ensure that every member of society has that prospect too.

Most MPs make nice comments about their constituencies but I can truly say, with hand on heart, that Greenwich is a wonderful place to live. Tourists come to see the historic buildings and will come in even larger numbers to the Millennium Exhibition in three years' time. But Greenwich is not a museum. It is a genuine community and we are very proud and happy to live here.

The two faces of Britain's housing stock: the private residence and the run-down council estate

THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY

By David Curry,
Housing Minister

The most important challenge for the next government will be to combine a competitive economy with the delivery of effective but affordable welfare in the broadest sense. We have spelt out how we will address this need in pension provision and care of the elderly and are already delivering these policies in housing. The heart of our policy is:

- A real choice of tenure to provide a mobile workforce and meet individual needs;
- Sustainable home ownership;
- Bringing new partners into social housing in recognition of the reality (however unpalatable) that no government is going to revert to large-scale public financing and subsidised housing, and addressing the problems of inner-city estates by bringing housing and regeneration policies together.

Over the past 18 years we have given millions the chance to buy a home for the first time in their lives. We have given council and some housing association tenants the right to buy their home at a discount. More than two million tenants have bought their homes since 1979, 1.7 million of them thanks to our Right to Buy policy.

Our economic policies are making it easier for first-time buyers to enter the market and we will continue to help council and housing association tenants who can afford it into home ownership. As a result, we expect a further 1.5-million people to become home owners over the next ten years.

But there are many people who do not want or cannot afford their own home. They also deserve a choice of housing. We have encouraged a thriving private rented sector. Since 1988, when we deregulated the sector allowing landlords to charge a market rent, the number of families living in private rented accommodation has increased by nearly 400,000. We will sustain the revival, encouraging more institutional investment through housing investment trusts.

We will continue to help housing associations and local housing companies to provide new housing at sub-market rents for families with low incomes. Since 1988, housing associations have had access to private finance. To date, they have secured £6.4 billion of private sector investment.

We must tackle the problem of the worst estates and give opportunity to tenants locked into these municipal fiefdoms. The rationale behind housing transfers is to mobilise private sector funding for a public good. To date, 53 local authorities have transferred their housing to new landlords, raising more than £3.8 billion in private finance.

The new landlord buys the stock on the basis that it remains as social housing with sub-market rents. They can use private money to improve homes without increasing public spending and taxes. Transfers take place only with the consent of tenants.

The Housing Act 1996 enables councils to transfer their stock to a wider range of landlords, such as local housing companies which offer councils the chance to retain an interest in the stock.

This year's Budget contained a number of measures which make transfer even more attractive, including a three-year holiday from the LSVT receipts levy (local authorities were required to pay the Exchequer 20 per cent of what was left of any receipt arising from a transfer after any outstanding debt on the stock had been repaid) and more money for our Estates Renewal Challenge Fund.

Given the constraints on public expenditure across the developed world, transfers are the best way of getting more investment in the public sector stock.

Last, but not least, we are helping those in the greatest need. Between April 1990 and March 1996 we spent more than £180 million under the Rough Sleepers Initiative. As a result, the number of people sleeping on the streets of central London has fallen from more than 1,000 to under 290. We are continuing the scheme in central London and extending it to other areas.

WHERE I LIVE

I LIVE in a 19th-century Victorian farmhouse — without the farm, *David Curry writes.* A very plain yellow Cambridgeshire brick cube, it was the sort of place my wife always said she could "do something with".

The "something" has been to add terraces, an open porch (replacing a sort of dog kennel of a tunnel) and shutters — my wife is French.

We've converted the bit of cereal field attached to the house into garden (the first year the farmer managed to harvest the hedge as well as the wheat), including a vegetable garden where I fight a permanent war to defend it from being used by my father as an "overflow" for plants surplus to the flower borders.

I love two things about the house. Inside, its orientation makes it very luminous. Outside, when I get home from London the air is sweet and soft and, at times, rich with the scent of laburnum and mahonia. The cycle of the garden, made up of the predictable seasons each punctuated by a thousand surprises (not all happy surprises), makes a necessary therapy for the conflicts of politics.

But therapy is *not* relaxation — a garden is unremittingly demanding. It is the energy spent, not the energy saved, which is the greatest pleasure.

THE LIBERAL DEMOCRATS

By Diana Maddock, MP
Housing spokeswoman

Liberal Democrat policies for housing are based on our recognition of the diversity of people's needs. Not everyone wants to own their own home, and housing provision has to take into account variations in demand and cost.

The proposals we are putting forward are based on flexibility, to allow local authorities and developers to make the right decisions about how much new social housing is needed, and how to finance it.

Our approach dictates that prevention is more efficient than treatment. Since homelessness is such a problem, it is surely wise to ensure that fewer people are being made homeless in the first place.

In the house price collapse of the early 1990s, a third of a million people lost their homes. Our housing policy addresses this by proposing to phase out universal mortgage interest tax relief for first-time buyers and replace it with a means-tested mortgage benefit, which would allow full payment of mortgage interest (up to a ceiling) for families on income support and low incomes. This saves the cost of rehousing evicted families and paying housing benefit for private rented accommodation.

As far as the private rented sector is concerned, it seems that the present Government is preparing to put more of a burden upon it than it can possibly bear. The new changes in housing benefit will mean that more and more single benefit claimants will be seeking private sector lettings. The Government has done little or no research into the amount of quality accommodation available. These benefit restrictions need to be reversed.

In terms of new social housing, we propose to remove restrictions on local government and give it the freedom to invest more in social housing. We want to give local authorities the opportunity to invest by phasing the release of capital receipts according to the needs of individual areas. At the same time we want radically to reform the way local authorities can raise the money to invest in housing.

By adopting the General Government Finance Deficit as the main measure of public borrowing, we would allow public accounts to show the true value of investment in homes, investment which saves money by taking families out of expensive temporary accommodation. This would also allow local authorities to set up housing corporations which could raise money through loans and investment.

We favour investment in bricks and mortar rather than expensive benefit subsidies — we've not forgotten that the cost of housing benefit has soared from £4 billion to £10 billion in ten years.

There is much we can do to ensure that existing housing stock is used effectively. It seems scandalous that there are 790,000 empty properties in England and Wales. Research estimates that around 125,000 empty homes could be refurbished for less than £5,000 each. Under Liberal Democrat housing policies, local authorities could bring into use any property left empty without reasonable cause for more than 12 months.

We also have plan to refurbish existing housing: more than four million people are living in houses classed as unfit for habitation.

There is progress to be made in energy saving: my own Home Energy Conservation Act, which became law in 1995, went some way to ensuring that new and existing homes could be energy-efficient. Liberal Democrats are also advocating reducing VAT rating of energy-saving building materials.

Tenants should have the power to make decisions on serious matters such as competitive tendering. We are particularly concerned at new DoE proposals to award housing investment money only where local authorities have put in place a plan for transfer of social housing to the private sector.

WHERE I LIVE

SOON after I was elected in 1993, I bought a 200-year-old cottage in the heart of Christchurch, Dorset, *Diana Maddock writes.* It is a Grade II listed building and, from the first floor, I have wonderful views over Christchurch Harbour and the river — some of the most attractive features of the town.

There's a conservatory and even a small garden at the back. I can walk from the house out across the mudflats, which is always refreshing. The only drawback of being so near to a river is that the cottage has been flooded in the past. Now the Environment Department is putting up flood barriers.

From the road side, I am overlooked by council offices. Initially, the Conservative administration viewed me (literally) with great suspicion as they could see from their offices my every coming and going.

Now, of course, the Liberal Democrats are the largest party on the council. It is not just the council that is close. From my home I can walk to most places I need: my constituency office, the station and town centre shops and restaurants are only a few minutes away. I can also get to the leisure centre near by, and visit Christchurch Priory where there are regular concerts.

So my cottage is very important to me: it's a still point in a hectic world.

For sale: Major's wartime haven

Eve-Ann Prentice on a humble terraced cottage with an intriguing history

Just weeks before John Major faces the possible upheaval of finding a new house, the Norfolk cottage which was his evacuation home during the war has gone on sale.

The 15-month-old future Prime Minister was taken to the mid-terraced cottage in the remote village of Saham Toney, near the market town of Watton, by his mother and father after a doodlebug flying bomb exploded uncomfortably close to the Major family's home in Brixton and sent shards of glass flying into his cot just seconds after the infant had been lying in it.

John Major was probably too young to form vivid memories of his time at the four-bedroom cottage, which went on sale last week. But his elder brother, Terry Major-Ball, recalls the future Prime Minister being the subject of intense interest among some German prisoners of war staying in the village when they tried to teach the toddler the Nazi salute.

In his book, *Major Major: Memories of an Older Brother*, Major-Ball writes: "That was the last straw. My mother Gwen flew at them and a group of English and German NCOs came to see what the fuss was about.

"They could not apologise enough. They reported the matter and said it would never happen again. In fact, we did not see any more prisoners."

The Majors took refuge in Norfolk in July 1944, when the aerial bombardment of the Blitz had ended but Londoners were being terrorised by doodlebugs and V2s — known as "flying gas mains" because the explosions caused by them were ascribed by the Government to gas main blasts. The Majors' next-door neighbours in London, who had earlier fled the Blitz to stay with relatives in Saham Toney, helped the future PM's family to find accommodation in the village. The Majors stayed until April 1945, but kept a link with Saham Toney when John Major's sister Pat took a ginger cat, which she named Saham, back to London.

Present-day villagers in Saham Toney were said to be unaware of the link with Mr Major until Terry Major-Ball's book was published last year.

Audrey Pickering, whose family lived in the Majors' wartime refuge since the early 1960s, has put the house on the market for £55,000.

She said yesterday: "I thought they were pulling my leg when I was first told John Major had lived here. Then his brother came here, and he was a very nice man. Personally, I think John seems very nice, too, and I don't think he should be blamed for everything."

Mrs Pickering has lived in the house for 14 years and her mother moved there nearly 33 years ago. She is selling because her husband, Michael, died recently and she is looking for somewhere smaller. "I love the house but I am hoping to find a little bungalow now," she said.

The house is described by the estate agents Mullenger & Co, who are selling it, as "a deceptively spacious mid-terrace cottage... only a short walk from the local primary school, shop/sub-post office and local pub".

Should Mr Major be tempted to return to his evacuation home, he will be pleased to know it has been considerably modernised since his days there — when there was no running water. In his book, Terry Major-Ball recollects fetching water from a well, whereas the bathroom today boasts a bidet as well as bath, wash basin and low-level WC.

So far no one has been to view. Anyone interested should contact Mullenger & Co in Watton, Norfolk on 01953 883474.

John Major's home as a toddler: it was here that German prisoners tried to teach him the Nazi salute

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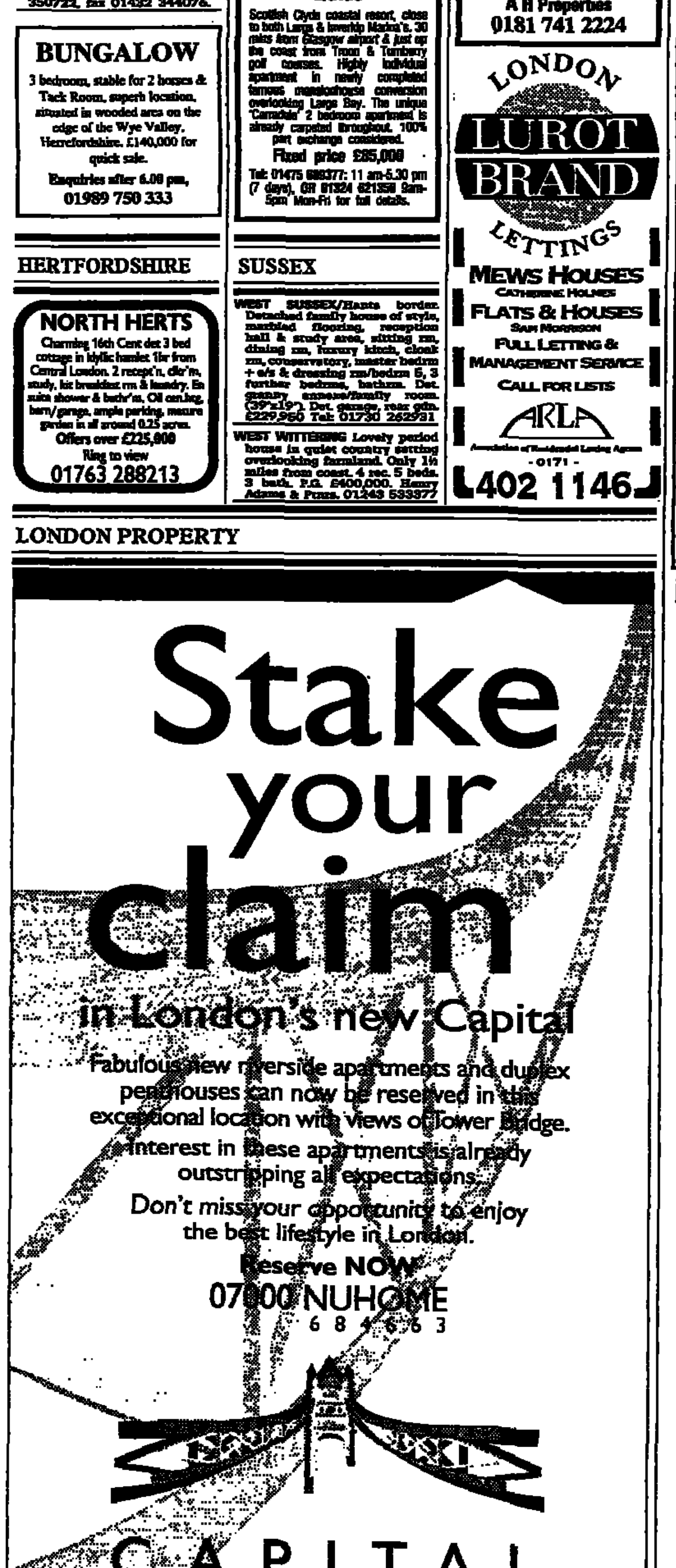

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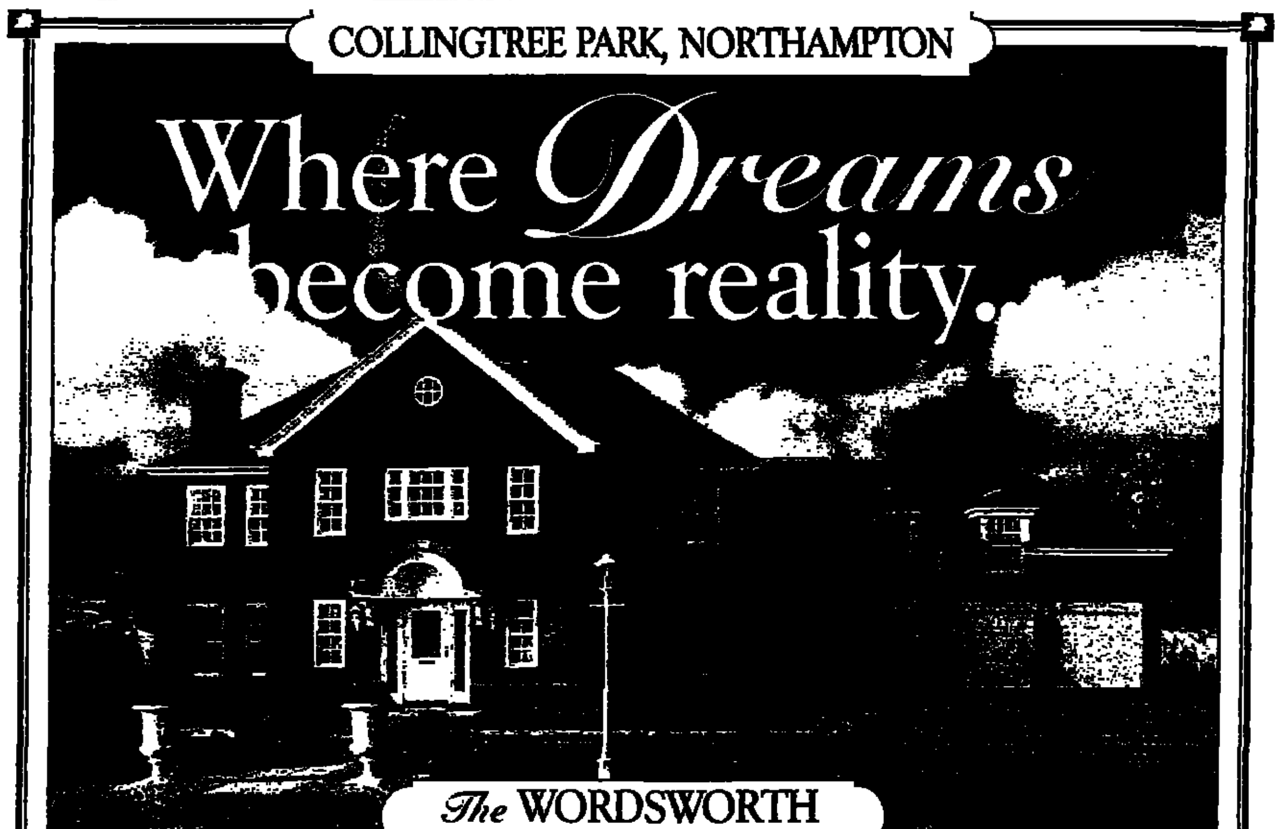

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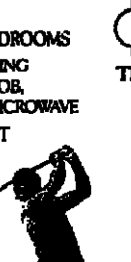

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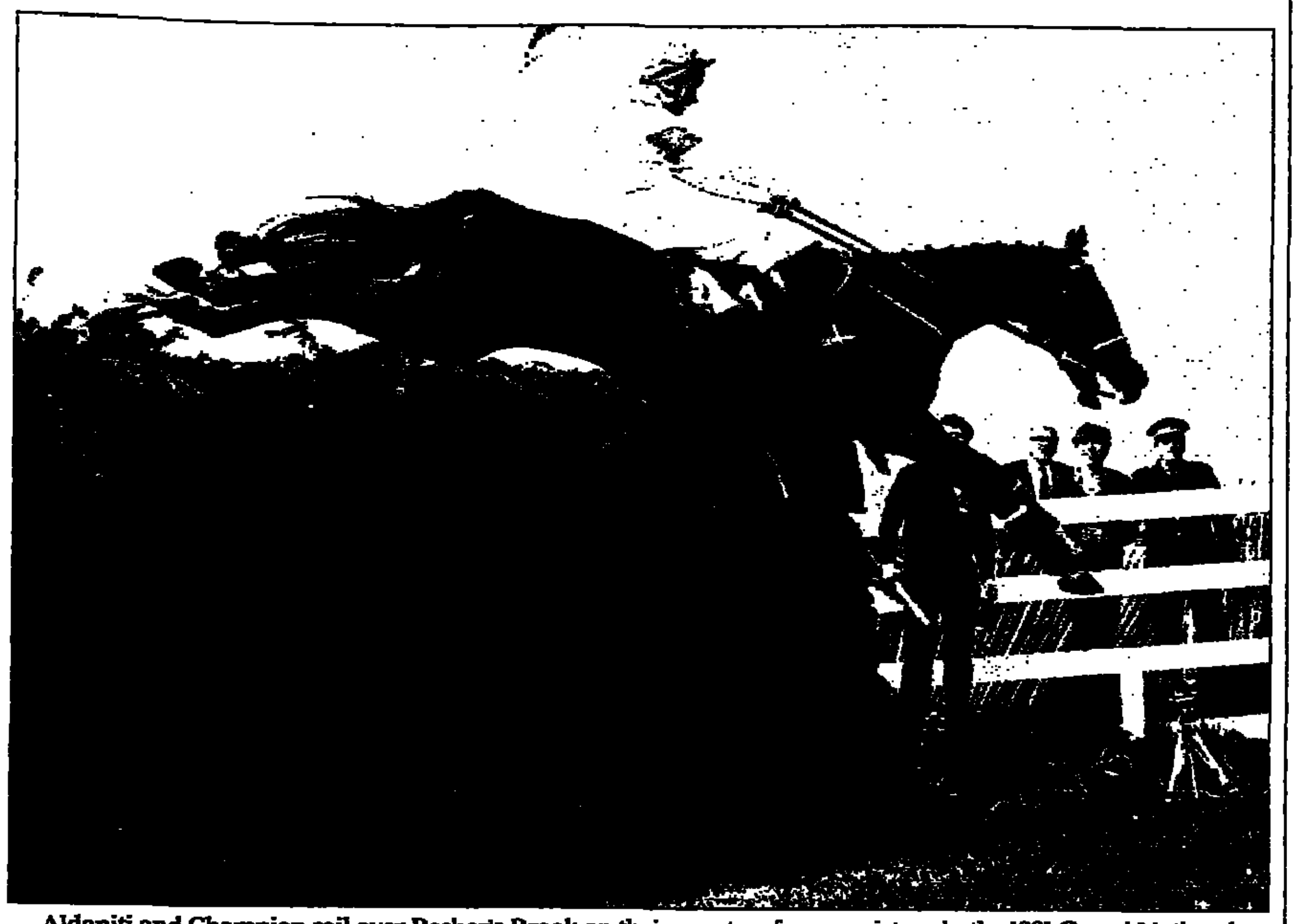
RACING: O'SULLEVAN FEATURED IN DOCUMENTARY TO MARK 150TH AINTREE SHOWPIECE

BBC unveils National treasures

By Julian Muscat



Aldaniti and Champion sail over Becher's Brook on their way to a famous victory in the 1981 Grand National

PETER O'SULLEVAN, the BBC racing commentator preparing to call his fiftieth Grand National, is to feature prominently in the build-up to the historic steeplechase on April 5.

Staff at the *Grandstand* programme, which commences at 12.15 on the big day, are compiling a feature on O'Sullevan's Grand National scrapbook in what will almost certainly be his last commentary on the great race. It has been O'Sullevan's long-held ambition to complete 50 years behind the microphone at Aintree.

"It will be a big story on a big occasion," Dave Gordon, editor of *Grandstand*, said yesterday. "The piece with Peter is one of a number of ideas we have to celebrate the 150th running of the Grand National. There are so many offbeat stories to choose from but Peter's achievement will be recognised." Additionally, the Aintree executive will unveil a bust of O'Sullevan on the course on Grand National day.

Known as "The Voice of Racing" for his mastery of the art, O'Sullevan spoke yesterday of the immense preparation required to commentate on one of the most unpredictable of sporting events. The *thought of it filled him* with terror. It was with gratitude, he said, that he could reflect on his close and lengthy association with the unique steeplechase.

Should Time For A Run prevail a fortnight on Saturday, a different kind of gratitude will be felt by an anonymous punter who laid out £21,800 on the Irish-trained horse. The man, who walked into a William Hill betting shop in London with the cash yesterday, staked £10,000 at 25-1 and £10,000 at 20-1, paying tax on both bets. He stands to collect £450,000.

The BBC is also planning to increase its coverage of the three-day fixture, which commences on April 3. In addition to the daily live broadcasts, there will be a 25-minute highlights package on Saturday evening to round up the day's events. And to commemorate the 150th running, the corporation is to screen a 50-minute documentary, *Grand National Tales*, provisionally programmed for 10.45pm on April 1.

The sheer wealth of the BBC archives allows Desmond Lynam — who will front the Grand National broadcast from Aintree for the thirteenth time — to indulge in a narrative embracing heartbreak and nostalgia in equal measure.

The programme, more than a year in the making, does not dwell on the legend of Red Rum, as have so many previous portraits of the National. Red Rum is given his due, of course, but the making of *Grand National Tales* is its unearthing of the unusual: of a bewitched solicitor who can recite all the fallers at every fence for the last 25 years; of a gaggle of giggling Singapore nightclub manageresses who make the annual pilgrimage; and of the man who for years interloped with jockeys leaving the weighing-room — pausing only to smile at the cameras.

"My personal favourite was Bob Champion's victory on Aldaniti in 1981," recalled Lynam, in London yesterday for a private screening of the documentary. "On radio the previous year we had Bob as our pundit. To be honest, we only asked him to try and cheer him up. Evidence of his cancer was all over him and we never thought he'd be with us 12 months later. We were all in tears — I remember not being able to talk when I was supposed to."

Richard and Mark Pitman — father and son who, 18 years apart, were touched off in remarkably similar circumstances aboard Crisp and Garrison Savannah respectively — relive their nightmares with a light touch. And the sequence of Mark Pitman's then-girlfriend, as she watched Garrison Savannah tire up that daunting run-in, vividly illustrates just how fine is the line between victory and defeat in the world's most famous steeplechase.

Tony McCoy will be sidelined for ten days after being knocked unconscious when falling from Strong Tel in the last race at Uttoxeter yesterday.

The Grey Monk eyes Fairyhouse

From Richard Evans in Dublin

WITH Imperial Call and Unguided Missile unlikely to run, The Grey Monk is set to head the weights and lead a formidable British challenge for the Jameson Irish Grand National at Fairyhouse on Easter Monday.

Only four British-trained horses have won the race since it was first run in 1870, but yesterday's publication of the weights for the £100,000-added event saw no less than 17 British entries, including Gordon Richards's exciting chaser, who bypassed the Cheltenham Festival because of fast ground.

"The Grey Monk is an intended runner, provided the ground is okay," the Greystoke trainer said yesterday. "Twelve stone is not ideal but he is in great form."

David Nicholson has entered both Percy Smollett, who should appreciate the right-handed Fairyhouse circuit, and St Mellion Fairway. Both are intended runners if there is decent ground.

Seven Towers, winner of the Midlands Grand National on Saturday, has been pencilled in along with Sister Stephanie, who finished third in the Uttoxeter race.

Mary Reveley, trainer of Seven Towers, said: "The horse will run only if it is soft because three miles five furlongs would not be a sufficient test otherwise."

Apart from the Irish National, another 20 British-trained horses are entered at the three-day meeting. Sparky Gayle, the Cathcart Chase winner, and Squire Silk, runner-up in the Arkle, could take on Dorans Pride, third in the Cheltenham Gold Cup, in the Power Gold Cup.

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Uttoxeter

Going: good to firm, good in places

2.20 (3m 2f ch) 1, Sheelin Lad (T Reed, 5-1); 2, Sailor Jim (11-2); 3, Lay It Off (11-1). Dont Tell The Wife 3-1 fav (pu). 8 ran. 1l, 13l. Mrs T McInnes Skinner. Tote: £7.30; £2.00, £1.50, £1.80. DF: £13.30. CSF: £28.59. Tricast: £258.66.

2.50 (2m hdle) 1, Radmore Brandy (G Lee, 7-4 fav); 2, Distant Storm (25-1); 3, Analogical (25-1). 13 ran. 1l, 4l. G Richards. Tote: £2.60; £1.60, £3.40, £6.90. DF: £258.00. Trio: £192.80. CSF: £57.62.

3.20 (3m 110yd hdle) 1, Smith Too (R Farrant, 10-11 fav); 2, Bankhead (3-1); 3, Lansdowne (5-2). 4 ran. NR: What's Your Story. 2½l, 3½l. Mrs J Pitman. Tote: £1.70. DF: £2.10. CSF: £3.73.

3.50 (2m 4f ch) 1, Quite A Man (C Maude, 10-1); 2, Heathyards Boy (7-1); 3, Another Comedy (12-1). Alter The Fox 3-1 fav (f). 10 ran. NR: Boots N All, Mindyerownbusiness. 5l, 22l. S Brookshaw. Tote: £15.20; £4.70, £1.60, £1.90. DF: £46.90. Trio: £155.60. CSF: £69.33. Tricast: £771.88.

4.20 (2m hdle) 1, Kildrummy Castle (F Leahy, 20-1); 2, Country Minstrel (16-1); 3, Galway Boss (5-1). Barton Scamp 4-1 fav. 14 ran. NR: Royrace. ½l, ¾l. J Fitzgerald. Tote: £20.00; £4.70, £6.20, £2.40. DF: £268.60. Trio: £623.80. CSF: £271.93. Tricast: £1,695.42.

4.50 (2m 4f 110yd hdle) 1, Dictum (J Culloty, 9-1); 2, Silver Thyne (7-4); 3, Man Of The Match (16-1). 12 ran. NR: Morpheus, Sioux To Speak. Nk, 21l. Miss H Knight. Tote: £8.00; £2.50, £1.50, £2.60. DF: £13.20. Trio: £37.60. CSF: £22.89.

Jackpot: not won (pool of £22,291.98 carried forward to Exeter today).

Placepot: £1,537.60. Quadpot: £380.80.

Fontwell Park

Going: good to firm, firm in places

2.00 (2m 2f ch) 1, Red Branch (T J Murphy, 5-6 fav); 2, Speedy Snaps Image (5-1); 3, Chris's Glen (11-2). 6 ran. 12l, 4l. J King. £1.40; £1.20, £1.70. DF: £3.20. CSF: £4.70.

2.30 (2m 2f 110yd hdle) 1, Strong Paladin (L Aspell, 100-30); 2, Neat Feat (15-8 fav); 3, Rhythm And Blues (3-1). 6 ran. 1¼l, 7l. J Gifford. Tote: £3.50; £1.70, £1.40. DF: £2.40. CSF: £8.67.

3.00 (3m 2f 110yd ch) 1, The Whole Hog (A Thornton, 7-4); 2, Bolshie Baron (Evens fav); 3, Cruise Control (9-2). 4 ran. 3½l, dist. K Bailey. Tote: £2.70. DF: £1.90. CSF: £3.79.

3.30 (2m 6f 110yd hdle) 1, Smuggler's Point (Sophie Mitchell, 5-1); 2, Vintage Claret (7-2 jt-fav); 3, Sorbiere (7-1). Walking Tall 7-2 jt-fav (pu). 8 ran. 5l, hd. J Bridger. Tote: £6.10; £2.10, £1.60, £1.70. DF: £19.50. CSF: £21.04. Tricast: £109.18.

4.00 (2m 3f ch) 1, Busman (Mr D S Jones, 11-4); 2, Tea Cee Kay (12-1); 3, Spitfire Jubilee (2-1 fav). 7 ran. NR: Flowing River. 10l, 9l. K Pearce. Tote: £3.50; £1.80, £3.00. DF: £10.80. CSF: £28.64.

4.30 (2m 2f 110yd hdle) 1, Claireswan (R Guest, 7-4 fav); 2, Decide Yourself (9-2); 3, Topanga (7-1). 7 ran. Hd, 6l. M Tompkins. Tote: £2.20; £1.50, £3.10. DF: £4.20. CSF: £9.85.

Placepot: £38.40.

Quadpot: £36.00.

Sedgefield

Going: good to firm, good in places

2.10 (2m 1f hdle) 1, Stylish Interval (R Supple, 5-1); 2, Suvalu (6-1); 3, Undawaterscubadiva (13-8 fav). 11 ran. NR: Posted Abroad. 1l, 3l. N Waggott. Tote: £6.60; £2.00, £1.40, £1.20. DF: £27.20. Trio: £21.60. CSF: £29.70.

2.40 (3m 3f ch) 1, Miss Colette (M Foster, 9-1); 2, Cool Weather (6-1); 3, Tactix (6-1). D'Arblay Street 6-5 fav. 7 ran. 6l, 4l. Mrs D Thomson. Tote: £11.60; £18.00, £7.20. DF: £21.80. CSF: £53.18.

3.10 (2m 5f ch) 1, The Toaster (E Callaghan, 9-2); 2, Cross Cannon (4-5 fav); 3, Twin Falls (9-4). 3 ran. 2l, 12l. Miss M Milligan. Tote: £5.30. DF: £2.50. CSF: £7.32. Risky Dee (11-1) withdrawn, not under orders — rule 4 applies to all bets, deduction 5p in pound.

3.40 (2m 5f ch) 1, River Unshion (A Dobbin, 2-1 fav); 2, Most Rich (14-1); 3, Dawn Lad (4-1). 7 ran. 2½l, 4l. J Howard Johnson. Tote: £2.20; £1.50, £8.00. DF: £23.20. CSF: £23.55.

4.10 (2m 5f 110yd hdle) 1, Harfdecent (P Niven, 5-4 fav; Private Handicapper's top rating); 2, King Fly (33-1); 3, Erni (9-2). 11 ran. NR: Mike Stan. ¾l, 23l. Mrs M Reveley. Tote: £2.20; £1.10, £5.30, £1.60. DF: £29.20. Trio: £12.50. CSF: £47.18.

4.40 (2m 1f hdle) 1, Glenugie (N Bentley, 2-1 fav); 2, Fryup Satellite (3-1); 3, Our Kris (9-2). 5 ran. NR: Astraleon. 2½l, 27l. G Moore. Tote: £2.00; £1.30, £2.10. DF: £5.40. CSF: £7.67.

Placepot: £251.40.

Quadpot: £26.10.

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TOWCESTER

THUNDERER

2.10 Boy Blakeney. 2.40 Grooving. 3.10 The Toiseach. 3.40 Strath Royal. 4.10 Ferrers. 4.40 Bollinger. 5.10 Lord Rooble.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: **3.10 NO FIDDLING.**

Carl Evans: 4.40 Bollinger.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM (GOOD IN PLACES) SIS

2.10 GRAFTON AMATEUR RIDERS SELLING HURDLE
(£1,825: 2m) (11 runners)

1	P526	HALHAM TARN 14 (D,S) H Manners 7-12-3	A G-Jones (7)	95
2	0001	HANGING GROVE 4 (F) P Murphy 7-12-3	Matthew Wells (7)	88
3	PU-0	PAULA'S BOY 27 D Bassett 7-11-11	Miss K Di Marte (7)	–
4	F0PF	ROYAL HAND 34 (V) R Armson 7-11-11	R Armson (7)	80
5	40	TEORDMA 7 J Jenkins 7-11-11	M Gingell (7)	–
6	PPP0	WEB OF STEEL 93 (B) C Hemsley 7-11-11	Miss A Dudley (7)	–
7	000-	CURRA MINSTRAL 369 J Long 7-11-6	J Ryan (7)	–
8	000P	DERRYBELLE 35 D Williams 6-11-6	S Durack (7)	–
9	00-P	RAKAPOSHI IMP 56 C Jones 7-11-5	Miss B Small (7)	–
10	-023	SPRIG MUSLIN 28 (V,S) D Gandolfo 5-11-5	Miss P Jones (5)	86
11	0205	BOY BLAKENEY 25 Mrs S Smith 4-11-3	C Mulhall (7)	▣

9-4 Sprig Muslin, 5-2 Hanging Grove, Boy Blakeney, 8-1 Halham Tarn, 9-1 others.

2.40 A LAWRIE NOVICES CHASE (£3,465: 2m) (4)

1	F1FF	GROOVING 46 (G,S) J Gifford 9-11-9	R Dunwoody	93
2	3512	JUST BRUCE 18 (F) Mrs E Heath 9-11-9	D Gallagher	▣
3	2434	AMBER VALLEY 18 (S) D Williams 6-11-2	Mr S Durack (7)	92
4	P064	SLEAZEY 16 J J O'Neill 6-11-2	S Curran	–

4-5 Grooving, 3-1 Just Bruce, 7-2 Amber Valley, 12-1 Sleazey.

3.10 BRITISH BAKELS HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,945: 2m 5f) (6)

1	3304	THE TOISEACH 19 (V,D,S) J Fanshawe 6-11-11	J Osborne	93
2	1P41	WASSL STREET 13 (C,S) K Morgan 5-11-4	R Dunwoody	96
3	5-34	CABOCHON 164 (G,S) J Joseph 10-10-6	D Skyrme	93
4	6-06	NO FIDDLING 12 (V,BF,S) G McCourt 6-10-3	D Bridgwater	▣
5	-040	BOB'S PLOY 36 (BF) M Tompkins 5-10-0	P Henley (3)	81
6	5-02	THIS NETTLE DANGER 7 (C,F) O Brennan 13-10-0	M Brennan	90

6-4 Wassl Street, 7-2 The Toiseach, 5-1 This Nettle Danger, Bob's Ploy, 8-1 Cabochon, 10-1 No Fiddling.

3.40 JULIAN BELFRAGE MEMORIAL HANDICAP CHASE (£4,435: 3m 1f) (5)

1	1/5	STRATH ROYAL 23 (F,G,S) O Brennan 11-12-0	M Brennan	–
2	1FP-	DON'T LIGHT UP 330 (B,CD,G,S) Miss V Williams 11-10-13	M A Fitzgerald	95
3	0302	HARRISTOWN LADY 8 (B,F,G) G Balding 10-10-3	B Clifford	▣
4	4642	FAST THOUGHTS 16 (CD,F,G,S) D Gandolfo 10-10-0	J Osborne	91
5	F-2U	REAPERS ROCK 7 (BF,G,S) Mrs S Smith 10-10-0	R Wilkinson (7)	78

11-4 Fast Thoughts, 11-4 Harristown Lady, 100-30 Strath Royal, 9-2 others.

4.10 HARTWELL LAND ROVER NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,495: 2m) (10)

1	06P1	APACHE PARK 36 (D,S) D Burchell 4-11-10	D J Burchell	93
2	0F64	FERRERS 8 (G) Mrs P Sly 6-11-7	W Marston	▣
3	4235	FAIRELAINE 37 (BF) K Bailey 5-11-0	C O'Dwyer	89
4	0124	DISSOLVE 9 (G) N Lampard 5-10-13	Mr L Baker (7)	88
5	3232	MR POPPLETON 18 R Brotherton 8-10-8	L Harvey	94
6	5340	POSITIVO 93 Miss C Caroe 6-10-8	D Leahy	93
7	U4UF	ROMANY BLUES 49 C Brooks 8-10-2	D Gallagher	85
8	-004	MILLERS GOLDENGIRL 6 Mrs S Smith 6-10-1	R Wilkinson (7)	77
9	PPP	BALLY WONDER 18 Mrs E Heath 5-10-0	J Supple	–
10	0-00	THE BIZZO 16 J Parfitt 6-10-0	P Henley (3)	–

7-2 Apache Park, 4-1 Mr Poppleton, 5-1 Ferrers, 6-1 Fairelaine, Millers Goldengirl, 7-1 Dissolve, 8-1 Positivo, 10-1 others.

4.40 EMPRESS ELIZABETH OF AUSTRIA OPEN HUNTERS CHASE (Amateurs: £1,606: 2m 6f) (4)

1	F-45	HICKELTON LAD 11 (F,G) D Williams 13-12-4	S Durack (7)	87
2	04-4	BOLLINGER 16 (F,G,S) Mrs J Gifford 11-12-0	P O'Keeffe (7)	▣
3	000F	CHARLIES DELIGHT 26 (G,S) Mrs C Hicks 9-12-0	A Sansome (5)	–
4	PU-P	STAR OATS 20 (G,S) Mrs R Lampard 11-12-0	A Kinane (7)	–

5-4 Bollinger, 5-2 Hickelton Lad, 7-2 Star Oats, 5-1 Charlies Delight.

5.10 LETHEBY & CHRISTOPHER NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE (£2,723: 2m 5f) (6)

1	3521	LORD ROOBLE 16 (G) J Gifford 6-11-8	P Hide	96
2	6P-0	CORRIMULZIE 55 (V) K Morgan 6-11-2	W Fry	–
3	0-35	FASHION MAKER 18 Mrs I McKie 7-11-2	L Harvey	87
4	0	PRESTIGIOUS MAN 19 J Jenkins 6-11-2	W Marston	–
5	620	STORMYFAIRWEATHER 32 N Henderson 5-11-2	M A Fitzgerald	▣
6	P-	SILVER SPINNEY 319 P Hewitt 6-10-11	D Gallagher	–

4-5 Lord Rooble, 11-4 Stormyfairweather, 6-1 Fashion Maker, 10-1 Prestigious Man, 12-1 Corrimulzie, 100-1 Silver Spinney.

LUDLOW

THUNDERER

2.00 Chief Mouse. 2.30 Howgill. 3.00 Vision Of Freedom. *3.30 Minella Express.* *4.00* **CRANDON BOULEVARD** (nap). 4.30 Mr Snaggle. 5.00 Homme De Fer.

Carl Evans: 3.30 Minella Express.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM (GOOD IN PLACES) SIS

2.00 SEIFTON CLAIMING HURDLE
(£2,094: 2m) (11 runners)

1	0030	DR DAVE 33 P Chamings 6-11-8	A Thornton
2	2P50	RE ROI 41 (D,F,G) W G M Turner 5-11-4	N Willmington (7)
3	106P	CHIEF MOUSE 30 (F,G) Miss H Knight 4-11-3	J F Titley
4	020U	NIGHT BOAT 42 W Clay 6-11-2	Guy Lewis (3)
5	566P	ANLACE 97 (D,F,G) S Mellor 8-11-1	Chris Webb (5)
6	-P00	KINGS VISION 14 W Jenks 5-11-0	D Walsh
7	0210	RUTH'S GAMBLE 5 (V,D,BF,G) Mrs L Jewell 9-10-12	J Culloty
8	P/0	VITAL WONDER 4 J Parfitt 9-10-12	D Finnegan (7)
9	0	BOLD TIME MONKEY 9 M Tate 6-10-9	C Llewellyn
10		DOUBLE VINTAGE 61F M Chapman 4-10-9	W Worthington
11	P	T'NIEL 30 G Fierro 6-10-9	S Lycett (7)

5-4 Chief Mouse, 4-1 Re Roi, 7-1 Ruth's Gamble, Night Boat, Anlace, 9-1 others.

2.30 BANKS'S HANDICAP CHASE (£3,388: 3m) (6)

1	4155	TOO SHARP 32 (C,F,G) Miss H Knight 9-11-10	J F Titley
2	4454	TRUMPET 113 (D,F) J A O'Shea 8-11-5	R Johnson
3	2P62	SCOTONI 27 (F,G,S) R O'Sullivan 11-11-2	A Thornton
4	-263	HOWGILL 36 (B,F,G) T Forster 11-10-12	S Wynne
5	5P46	PANT LLIN 20 (B,D,F) F Jordan 11-10-6	R Supple
6	4PP4	FOXGROVE 88 (F,G) R Price 11-10-0	J Aizpuru (7)

9-4 Too Sharp, 3-1 Howgill, 7-2 Scotoni, 4-1 Trumpet, 8-1 Foxgrove, 12-1 Pant Llin.

3.00 RACING CHANNEL HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,584: 2m) (9)

1	1130	ZINE LANE 23F (D,F,G) J O'Shea 5-11-11	R Johnson
2	135/	LIVE ACTION 1601 (D,G) Miss H Knight 10-11-10	J Culloty
3	-45F	VISION OF FREEDOM 43 (D,F,G) P Bowen 9-11-3	R Farrant
4	0363	SCHNOZZLE 4 F Bridgwater 6-11-0	R Massey (3)
5	5662	ABOVE THE CUT 16 C Morlock 5-10-12	C Llewellyn
6	5534	DESERT CALM 11 P Evans 5-10-6	D Walsh
7	/FF	SWAHILI RUN 27 (D,F) J O'Shea 9-10-5	D J Kavanagh (3)
8	/P0	MUIZENBERG 21 (D,G) E Owen 10-10-0	A Thornton
9	P0-P	BRITANNIA MILLS 61F (F) M Chapman 6-10-0	W Worthington

3-1 Zine Lane, 7-2 Above The Cut, 4-1 Live Action, 5-1 Schnozzle, [illegible]

3.30 MAGNUS-ALLCROFT MEMORIAL TROPHY HUNTERS CHASE (£1,642: 2m 4f) (19)

1	144-	FAMILIAR FRIEND 31S (B,F,S) [illegible]	[illegible]
2	-312	MINELLA EXPRESS 15 (BF,F,G,S) [illegible]	Miss C Spearing (7)
3	363P	RAMSTAR 40 (D,F,S) [illegible]	Miss P Curling (5)
4	31-1	TUFFNUT GEORGE 23 (D,F) P Grainger [illegible]	[illegible]
5	U-13	BLUE CHEEK 25P (D,F,G,S) J Mahon 11-12-4	N Bradley (7)
6	23P-	GREAT GUSTO 531 (CD,F) Miss L Blackford 11-12-4	Miss L Blackford (7)
7	3-BP	KING OF SHADOWS 20 (G) Miss C Carden 10-12-4	S Prior (7)
8	P3-3	LANDSKER MISSILE 32P (S) Mrs M Evans 8-12-2	Mr E Williams (7)
9	5-F5	AL HASHIMI 16 (C,D,F,G,S) N Ridout 13-12-0	N Ridout (7)
10	/-P	GREAT PONEY 9 (F,S) Miss N Courtenay 12-12-0	Miss N Courtenay (7)
11	P4	KINO 17P (G,S) A Martin 10-12-0	Andrew Martin (7)
12	10-P	MHEMEANLES 26 (F,G) F Nicholls 7-12-0	A Gribbin (7)
13	232-	SIMPLY PERFECT 11P (G,S) J Swindells 11-12-0	Miss K Swindells (7)
14	50P-	STYLISH GENT 32P (F,G) S Griffiths 10-12-0	A Dalton (7)
15	P/P	THE COMMUNICATOR 16 (B,S) M Hall 11-12-0	C Vigors (5)
16	FU-5	WATCHIT LAD 11P Mrs A Price 7-12-0	M P Jones (7)
17	4U-F	WINTER'S LANE 284P (F,S) Ms K Rees 13-12-0	D A-Hankey (7)
18	U-24	HENNERWOOD OAK 25P (G) Lady Brooke 7-11-9	M Munrowd (7)
19	5P-P	MAJIC BELLE 11P (B) M Jackson 9-11-9	A Wintle (7)

2-1 Minella Express, 4-1 Tuffnut George, 10-1 Ramstar, Hennerwood Oak, 12-1 Familiar Friend, Blue Cheek, 14-1 Simply Perfect, 16-1 others.

4.00 BANKS'S LEASES AND TENANCIES JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE (£2,696: 2m) (8)

1	51	MEG'S MEMORY 39 (D,G) A Streeter 11-0	T Eley
2	00	AFRICAN SUN 12 M Chapman 10-12	R Supple
3	33	CRANDON BOULEVARD 12 Mrs J Pitman 10-12	R Farrant
4	00	GREEN BOPPER 13 C Morlock 10-12	R Johnson
5	B003	NOBLE COLOURS 18 S Griffiths 10-12	D J Kavanagh (5)
6	06	WHITE PLAINS 13 M Pipe 10-12	D Walsh
7	436	DOWN THE YARD 12 M Chapman 10-7	W Worthington
8	5F2	SULAWESI 27 N Twiston-Davies 10-7	C Llewellyn

2-1 Sulawesi, 5-2 Crandon Boulevard, 5-1 Meg's Memory, White Plains, 10-1 Noble Colours, 12-1 Down The Yard, 20-1 others.

4.30 ASTON MUNSLOW NOVICES CHASE
(£3,371: 2m 4f) (9)

1	3234	FAWLEY FLYER 20 (F,G,S) W G M Turner 8-11-2	A Thornton
2	60P0	GUTTERIDGE 39 P Evans 7-11-2	D Walsh
3	303F	MR SNAGGLE 9 (G,S) S Earle 8-11-2	R Johnson
4	-5F0	SPORTING FIXTURE 114 K Bridgwater 6-11-2	R Massey (3)
5	-F0P	TRAIL BOSS 12 Miss H Knight 6-11-2	J F Titley
6	/00	WESTCOTE LAD 39 (G,S) W Jenks 8-11-2	C Llewellyn
7	-65P	KNOWING 93 (S) P Waltons 10-10-11	Miss E James
8	3F63	PRIZE MATCH 15 (S) J Tuck 8-10-11	S McNeill
9	P00P	RIVERBANK RED 29 (V) W Clay 6-10-11	Guy Lewis (3)

2-1 Mr Snaggle, 9-4 Fawley Flyer, 5-1 Trail Boss, Prize Match, 9-1 others.

5.00 LUDLOW STANDARD OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (£1,329: 2m) (12)

1	6	HOMME DE FER 11 K Bailey 5-11-4	C Scudder (7)
2	00-0	SANDVILLE LAD 50 Mrs D Thomas 5-11-4	Guy Lewis (3)
3		MAYDAY LAUREN A Bailey 5-10-13	S Wynne
4	0	MISS KILWORTH 18 F Bridgwater 6-10-13	R Massey (3)
5	500-	RAJADORA 301 L Snook 5-10-13	A Thornton
6		TEAL BAY S Brookshaw 5-10-13	X Aizpuru (7)
7		COMMANCHE CUP A James 4-10-10	D Walsh
8		DIAMOND HALL K Burke 4-10-10	
9		GINGER METAL D Burchell 4-10-10	J Prior (7)
10		MAZILEO I Williams 4-10-10	F Bogle (7)
11		PECAN PRINCESS C Smith 4-10-5	–
12	6	WHAT THE DEVIL 25 J Smith 4-10-5	W Worthington

11-4 Homme De Fer, 4-1 Teal Bay, 6-1 Mazileo, Mayday Lauren, 8-1 Ginger Metal, Diamond Hall, 12-1 others.

EXETER

THUNDERER

2.20 Rose Of Glenn
2.50 Claymore Lad
3.20 Ehtefaal
3.50 Fine Harvest
4.20 Clever Shepherd
4.50 Bietschorn Bard

Carl Evans: 4.20 Tinotops.

GUIDE TO OUR IN-LINE RACECARD

101 113143 GOOD TIMES 13 (BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 12-0 B West (7) 88

Racecard number. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing: F if flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM (GOOD IN PLACES) SIS

2.20 ROBERT WEBB TRAVEL NOVICES SELLING HURDLE
(£1,941: 2m 2f) (11 runners)

101	0/2U00/	ACROSS THE BOW 865 (C Lloyd-Baker) A Dunn 7-11-2	G Tormey	–
102	00	BEWELDERED 13 (P Tosh) R Frost 5-11-2	J Frost	–
103	0P0PP0	DECEIT THE SECOND 12 (E Way) P Rodford 5-11-2	S Burrough	–
104	412130	FLEET CADET 37 (V,S) (Sir John Swaine) M Pipe 6-11-2	A P McCoy	▣
105	0/00P00	SEMINOLE WIND 4 (V) (The Hole In The Wall Gang) C Barwell 6-11-2	B Powell	–
106	F2023/6-	TALES OF HEARSAY 398 (Blacksmith Club) C Jackson 7-11-2	O Burrows (5)	–
107	0-45F6	ROSE OF GLENN 9 (S Sollinsen) B Palling 6-10-11	T Jenks	93
108	P0P	CHALCUCHIMA 9 (B) (C Dyer Syndicate) N Hawke 4-10-8	J Railton	–
109	00P	RAPID LINER 12 (Mrs V Jones) R Baker 4-10-8	V Slattery	–
110	60PPP	SEVEN CROWNS 16 (V) (R Heathman Ltd) C Popham 4-10-8	T Dascombe (3)	–
111	405PP	PROVE THE POINT 13 (Mrs N Dutfield) Mrs P Dutfield 4-10-3	P Holley	82

BETTING: 5-4 Fleet Cadet, 3-1 Tales Of Hearsay, 6-1 Rose Of Glenn, 8-1 Prove The Point, 10-1 others.

1996: ALLAHRAKHA 5-11-2 R Dunwoody (4-1 fav) Mrs J Retter 17 ran

FORM FOCUS

ACROSS THE BOW 19l 7th of 13 to Ask The Governor in handicap hurdle at Newton Abbot (2m 6f, good to soft) Oct 94. FLEET CADET best effort beat Indian Temple 4l in 11-runner selling handicap hurdle at Leicester (2m, good to soft) Jan 97. SEMINOLE WIND best effort 18l 8th of 24 to Noddadante in selling handicap hurdle at Windsor (2m 6f 110yd, good) on penultimate start, with SEVEN CROWNS (10lb better off) pulled up. TALES OF HEARSAY about 7¾l 6th of 13 to Leggagh Lady in handicap hurdle at Thurles (2m, yielding to soft). ROSE OF GLENN best effort about 4½l 5th of 21 to Bella Sedona in selling hurdle at Lingfield (2m, soft) Jan 97. PROVE THE POINT best effort 14¾l 5th of 21 to Peter Monamy in selling hurdle at Leicester (2m, good to soft) Nov 96.
Selection: FLEET CADET

2.50 AXWORTHYS LTD NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE
(£4,338: 2m 7f 110yd) (15 runners)

201	0601	FULL OF BOUNCE 13 (G) (Fieldspring Racing) R Hodges 6-11-13	T Dascombe (3)	93
202	4P03P-	PHILATELIC 293 (P De Wilde) R Alner 6-11-4	J Railton	–
203	5/36-2U2	MOZEMO 9 (G) (Cocao Trust Co Ltd) M Pipe 10-11-3	A P McCoy	80
204	50332U	SUPER RITCHART 22 (G,S) (The Gordon Associates) B Palling 9-11-3	T Jenks	82
205	41/0-36P	MENDIP PRINCE 40 (S) (Three Ply Racing) P Hobbs 7-11-1	G Tormey	–
206	6423-03	TRUST DEED 13 (B,F,G) (M Ensecott) S Knight 9-10-7	G Upton	88
207	05/P350	VOLLEYBALL 32 (B) (Mrs M Tutnell) P Hedger 8-10-5	M Richards	–
208	00P-P54	CLAYMORE LAD 41 (Marlborough Racing Pnrs) J King 7-10-3	T J Murphy	98
209	563324	WINNOW 30 (H Smith) A Turnell 7-10-2	C Rae	81
210	4P-65F4	DUNLIR 37 (F) (B Brereton) P Rodford 7-10-2	S Burrough	–
211	0534-4U	RIVER GALA 167 (P Maltby) R Hodges 7-10-1	P Holley	80
212	PPU0PP	KING'S COURTIER 30 (T Syder, S Olivet) S Mellor 8-10-0	N Mann	–
213	F0/3020	CARDINAL GAYLE 13 (M Lockyer) R Alner 7-10-0	J R Kavanagh	–
214	0/60P/P	CHARLIE BEE 30 (Mrs B Bishop) R Buckler 8-10-0	B Powell	–
215	0-656PF	PURBECK RAMBLER 13 (V) (Miss M Lane) G Balding 5-10-0	B Fenton	▣

Long handicap: Cardinal Gayle 9-13, Charlie Bee 9-12, Purbeck Rambler 9-12

BETTING: 9-2 Full Of Bounce, 11-2 Mozemo, 6-1 Trust Deed, 7-1 Super Ritchart, 8-1 Mendip Prince, Claymore Lad, 10-1 Winnow, 16-1 others.

1996: TITAN EMPRESS 7-10-7 C Maude (25-1) S Mellor 13 ran

FORM FOCUS

FULL OF BOUNCE beat Frazer Island 21l in 10-runner novice chase at Wincanton (2m 5f, good) with TRUST DEED (23lb better off) 24½l 3rd and PURBECK RAMBLER (30lb better off) fell. PHILATELIC best effort 19l 3rd of 12 to Political Panto in novice hurdle at Wincanton (2m 6f, firm) on penultimate start. MOZEMO 9l 2nd of 4 to After The Fox in novice chase at Taunton (2m 3f, good). SUPER RITCHART best effort 13l 2nd of 15 to Cardinal Rule in novice handicap chase at Hereford (2m 3f, soft) on penultimate start, with WINNOW (5lb worse off) 42l 4th and MOZEMO unseated rider. WINNOW best effort 5l 2nd of 15 to Cardinal Rule in novice handicap chase at Plumpton (2m 5f, good) on penultimate start, with PURBECK RAMBLER (8lb better off) 20¾l 6th. CARDINAL GAYLE best effort 13l 2nd of 10 to Fancy Nancy in novice hurdle at Hereford (3m 2f, soft) on penultimate start.
Selection: FULL OF BOUNCE

3.20 AXWORTHYS COMPUTER SUPPLIES HANDICAP HURDLE
(£3,035: 3m 2f) (10 runners)

301	130/111	MAID EQUAL 34 (C,G,S) (H Kirpatani) M Pipe 6-11-10	G Supple (5)	▣
302	114354	DOCTOR GREEN 11 (V,C,F,G) (J Weeden) M Pipe 4-11-5	A P McCoy	88
303	52404F	KENDAL CAVALIER 12 (V,S) (M Digby) G Balding 7-11-4	B Fenton	90
304	5020P-5	SAME DIFFERENCE 239 (F,G,S) (C Shankland) G McCourt 9-10-13	–	85
305	1P5-20P	SECRET BID 12 (F) (The Droop Partners) R Alner 7-10-12	J R Kavanagh	–
306	324223	EHTEFAAL 13 (F) (Mrs M O'Kelly) J King 6-10-11	T J Murphy	97
307	111230	SNOW BOARD 8 (C,F,S) (F Sainsbury) Mrs M Jones 8-10-9	Derek Byrne	94
308	000321	ST VILLE 8 (D,F,G,S) (Melplash Racing) R Buckler 11-10-9 (5ex)	B Powell	90
309	654300	DERRING BRIDGE 20 (F,S) (J Johnson) Mrs S Johnson 7-10-0	Mr R Thornton (5)	98
310	43-5025	APACHEE FLOWER 13 (G) (J Tackley) H Howe 7-10-0	G Tormey	87

Long handicap: Derring Bridge 9-12, Apachee Flower 9-3.

BETTING: 7-4 Maid Equal, 5-1 St Ville, 7-1 Doctor Green, Ehtefaal, Snow Board, 8-1 Secret Bid, Kendal Cavalier, 14-1 others.

1996: COOL CLOWN 9-10-11 D Bridgwater (11-1) M Pipe 10 ran

FORM FOCUS

MAID EQUAL beat APACHEE FLOWER (5lb better off) 12l in 15-runner handicap hurdle at Taunton (3m 110yd, good). DOCTOR GREEN about 5l 4th of 5 to Shu Gaa in novice handicap hurdle at Chepstow (2m 110yd, soft). KENDAL CAVALIER best effort 18½l 4th of 9 to Top Javalin in novice handicap chase at Newbury (3m, good to soft) on penultimate start. SECRET BID best effort 1½l 2nd of 9 to Flow in novice chase at Windsor (3m, good) Dec 96. EHTEFAAL 3½l 3rd of 20 to Country Tarquin in handicap hurdle at Wincanton (2m 6f, good) with APACHEE FLOWER (10lb worse off) 5¾l 5th. ST VILLE beat Roger's Pal short-head in 6-runner handicap hurdle at Fontwell (2m 6f 110yd, good).
Selection: MAID EQUAL (nap)

3.50 HEAVITREE BREWERY CHALLENGE CUP HANDICAP CHASE
(£4,919: 2m 2f) (4 runners)

401	122431	THUMBS UP 27 (F,G,S) (Mrs B Taylor) G McCourt 11-11-11	R Hobson (7)	98
402	1/U-1F12	FINE HARVEST 61 (F,G) (Miss A Shirley-Priest) J Spearing 11-11-6	T J Murphy	▣
403	U1113-2	POLDEN PRIDE 284 (D,F) (D Lockyer, C Parry, G Balding) G Balding 9-10-11	A P McCoy	90
404	P-P662	ALPINE SONG 12 (S) (D Stephens) Miss V Stephens 12-10-0	Miss V Stephens	88

Long handicap: Alpine Song 7-10.

BETTING: 5-4 Thumbs Up, 7-4 Fine Harvest, 3-1 Polden Pride, 25-1 Alpine Song

1996: GALES CAVALIER 8-12-0 R Dunwoody (5-4 fav) D Gandolfo 5 ran

FORM FOCUS

THUMBS UP beat Regal Romper 15l in 5-runner handicap chase at Huntingdon (2m 110yd, good to soft). FINE HARVEST 1¾l 2nd of 7 to Super Tactics in handicap chase at Kempton (2m, good to firm). POLDEN PRIDE ½l 2nd of 10 to Sartorius in handicap chase at Worcester (2m 4f 110yd, good). ALPINE SONG ½l 2nd of 10 to Bishop's Castle in novice handicap chase over course and distance (good to soft).
Selection: THUMBS UP

4.20 ROBERT WEBB TRAVEL HUNTERS CHASE
(Amateurs: £1,569: 3m 2f) (15 runners)

501	PP2-44F	ABBOTSHAM 252 (D,F,G,S) (O Carter) O Carter 12-12-10	G Penfold (7)	72
502	U5431	RUSTY BRIDGE 21 (F,G,S) (I Johnson) Mrs S Johnson 10-12-10	R Burton (7)	81
503	3/004-11	THE MALAKARMA 18 (D,F,G,S) (C Dixey) Miss C Saunders 11-12-10	B Pollock (5)	85
504	1F4-1	FULL ALIRT 9 (G,S) (B Young) Miss S Young 9-12-5	Miss S Young (7)	84
505	4212-	BARON'S HEIR 296 (F,G) (Mrs J Livermore) R Livermore 10-12-3	S Lloyd (7)	69
506	55-45	BRABAZON 11P (D,S) (Mrs E Scott) Mrs E Scott 12-12-3	J Scott (7)	–
507	2UU-P	CLEVER SHEPHERD 32P (C,F,G) (P Browne) Miss L Horsey 12-12-3	R Nuttall (7)	▣
508	3PP-P12	FIDDLERS PIKE 13 (S) (Mrs R Henderson) Mrs R Henderson 16-12-3	Mrs R Henderson (7)	78
509	1P3P/	KNIFEBOARD 1019 (S) (P Hosgood) P Hosgood 11-12-3	A Farrant (5)	–
510	045P/	MORE MANNERS 711P (S) (Miss M Bragg) Miss M Bragg 12-12-3	J Creighton (7)	–
511	-2F03	QUALITAIR MEMORY 4P (F,G,S) (C Tizzard) C Tizzard 8-12-3	J Tizzard (7)	60
512	P4PPP-U	SILVER AGE 25P (G) (K Lewis) Mrs C Day 11-12-3	Miss P Cooper (7)	–
513	-5334	SIRISAT 21 (F,G,S) (Miss T Blazey) Miss T Blazey 13-12-3	Miss T Blazey (7)	72
514	1-231	TINOTOPS 17P (F,G,S) (R Targett) Mrs R Vickery 7-12-3	Miss S Vickery (7)	–
515	U-U11	MILES MORE FUN 32P (G,S) (E Retter) E Retter 8-11-12	L Jefford (7)	–

BETTING: 9-4 The Malakarma, 7-1 Full Alirt, Miles More Fun, 8-1 Abbotsham, Tinotops, 10-1 Fiddlers Pike, Rusty Bridge, 14-1 others.

1996: NO CORRESPONDING RACE

FORM FOCUS

RUSTY BRIDGE beat Vicompt de Valmont 7l in 16-runner hunter chase at Taunton (4m 2f 110yd, good to soft) with SIRISAT (3lb worse off) 10½l 4th. THE MALAKARMA beat Lord Relic 1¾l in 6-runner hunter chase at Warwick (3m 2f, good). FULL ALIRT beat Granville Guest 7l in 8-runner hunter chase at Taunton (3m, good). BARON'S HEIR 9l 2nd of 16 to Expressment in hunter chase at Hereford (3m 1f 110yd, good). FIDDLERS PIKE 3l 2nd of 7 to Teaplanter in hunter chase at Towcester (3m 1f, good to soft). MILES MORE FUN beat Moze Tidy 4l in 6-runner open race at Bishops Court (3m, good).
Selection: THE MALAKARMA

4.50 ROBERT WEBB TRAVEL HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,445: 2m 2f) (7 runners)

601	U-61U41	COOL GUNNER 12 (CD,S) (R Peterson) J King 7-11-10	C Maude	▣
602	014232	HANDSON 21 (BF,G,S) (Burrow Racing) B Millman 5-11-8	D Salter (5)	98
603	140203	BIETSCHHORN BARD 40 (B,D,G) (A Clapperton) D Gandolfo 7-11-8	D Fortt (3)	95
604	P0-5	BORJITO 91 (Mrs A Malde) C Barwell 6-10-12	B Fenton	90
605	22-26P5	COMMANCHE CREEK 228 (F) Miss J du Plessis 7-10-12	Sophie Mitchell (3)	98
606	0/0P506	CONCINNITY 9 (B Scriven) B Scriven 8-10-0	G Supple (5)	80
607	PPP5	RORY'M 12 (B) (Mrs J Waring) L Waring 8-10-0	M Griffiths (7)	–

Long handicap: Concinnity 9-12, Rory'm 9-6.

BETTING: 5-4 Cool Gunner, 5-2 Handson, 9-2 Bietschhorn Bard, 12-1 Borjito, Concinnity, 14-1 others.

1996: NO CORRESPONDING RACE

FORM FOCUS

COOL GUNNER beat Devon Peasant 3l in 6-runner handicap hurdle here (2m 3f 110yd, good to soft). HANDSON 8l 2nd of 9 to Added Dimension in handicap hurdle at Taunton (2m 1f, good to soft) with CONCINNITY (1lb better off) 14½l 5th. BIETSCHHORN BARD 10½l 3rd of 9 to Rangitikei in novice handicap hurdle at Newbury (2m 110yd, good). BORJITO about 11l 5th of 9 to Top Skipper in claiming hurdle over course and distance (soft). COMMANCHE CREEK 18¾l 5th to Country Star in handicap hurdle at Newton Abbot (2m 1f, good to firm). CONCINNITY 35½l 6th to Fontanays in handicap hurdle at Taunton (2m 3f 110yd, good).
Selection: BIETSCHHORN BARD

Blinkered first time

EXETER: 2.20 Chalcuchima, Seven Crowns. 2.50 Volleyball. LUDLOW: 3.30 Majic Belle. 4.30 Riverbank Red. TOWCESTER: 2.10 Royal Hand, Web Of Steel. 3.10 No Fiddling. 5.10 Corrimulzie.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

EXETER: Trainers: M Pipe, 75 winners from 289 runners, 26.0%; A Dunn, 6 from 27, 22.2%; Mrs N Dutfield, 5 from 24, 20.8%; P Hobbs, 24 from 127, 18.9%; J King, 7 from 46, 15.2%. Jockeys: A P McCoy, 19 winners from 99 rides, 19.2%; N Mann, 5 from 28, 17.9%; P Holley, 11 from 62, 17.7%; J Railton, 4 from 27, 14.8%; C Maude, 9 from 75, 12.0%.

LUDLOW: Trainers: K Bailey, 20 winners from 74 runners, 27.0%; M Pipe, 18 from 80, 22.5%; D Burchell, 6 from 37, 16.2%; Mrs J Pitman, 6 from 37, 16.2%; Miss H Knight, 12 from 76, 15.8%. Jockeys: J Titley, 5 winners from 27 rides, 18.5%; R Massey, 6 from 35, 17.1%; M A Fitzgerald, 9 from 60, 15.0%; A Thornton, 9 from 62, 14.5%; S McNeill, 7 from 53, 13.2%.

TOWCESTER: Trainers: J Long, 3 winners from 10 runners, 30.0%; K Bailey, 11 from 55, 20.0%; C Brooks, 7 from 35, 20.0%; O Brennan, 23 from 119, 19.3%; Mrs I McKie, 7 from 42, 16.7%. Jockeys: M Brennan, 22 winners from 100 rides, 22.0%; R Dunwoody, 15 from 70, 21.4%; D Gallagher, 10 from 52, 19.2%; J Osborne, 11 from 69, 15.9%; W Marston, 10 from 76, 13.2%.

GOLF

Mansell's progress fuelled by enjoyment

By Our Sports Staff

NIGEL MANSELL, the former Formula One motor racing world champion, proved as good on slow greens as he is in fast cars yesterday when he progressed to the second round of the Sunningdale Foursomes.

Mansell, partnering the aptly named John Putt, a winner of the event in 1973, overcame Paul Way and Terry Crawley 3 and 2 in an enthralling contest.

Mansell said: "It was a tremendous result and it was not expected. We actually checked out of the hotel this morning so we'll have to find somewhere to stay tonight."

Mansell and Putt started well and were never behind in the match played at Sunningdale's Old Course in a mixture of wind, rain and finally sunshine.

The pair were two-up by the turn and won the 10th with a par-four to open up a three-hole lead, which looked to be decisive. But Way showed why he was a member of the Europe Ryder Cup teams in 1983 and 1985 by helping to set up consecutive birdies for his partner as they reduced the deficit to one with five holes to play.

However, Way and Crawley could not maintain the momentum and the 14th hole proved vital. The pair could only manage a five to Mansell and Putt's four to fall two holes behind, and when they bogeyed the 16th as well it was left to Mansell to hole a four-foot putt for victory.

Mansell said: "John played very well and it could have gone either way. My aims are to enjoy my golf and play as well as I can. I have got a great coach and my friend, Greg Norman, is helping me, so I'm just going to see where it takes me."

Wayne Riley, of Australia, made it safely through to the next round after securing a 2 and 1 victory with Gary Smith. Riley, who spent last week attempting to defend his Portuguese Open title, was made to tussle all the way before booking his place.

Neil Coles, the veteran golfer, had to suffer the indignity of a crushing defeat, going down 8 and 6 in the worst reverse of the day.

Children under 18 will be admitted free to the Open Championship at Royal Troon from July 17 to 20. "This is the first time we have done this and it is to encourage youngsters to watch the best players in the world and become more interested in golf," Peter Greenough, the chairman of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club's championship committee, said.

Results

FIRST ROUND (Great Britain and Ireland unless stated). T Eaton and A Rodgers bt M Hamilton and J Ritchie 3 and 2; G Smith and W Riley (Aus) bt J Jukes and T Dixon 2 and 1; D Hart and R Watts bt M Aubrey-Fletcher and S Baguley 3 and 2; T Charnley and D Charlton bt G Laing and N Williams at 19th; J Earl and I Dryden bt J Toman and A Pearson 4 and 3; S Robinson and E Duggleby bt M McGuire and S Burnell 1 hole; D Griffiths and A Frayne bt G Torbett and J Leaver 1 hole. O Lindsay and K Hannah bt R Doig and L Bond at 19th; G Stewart and J Forbes bt P Tupling and A McNabola 5 and 4. S Little and S Jarman bt D Craik Jr and L Jackson 4 and 3; J Putt and N Mansell bt P Way and T Crawley 3 and 2.

A Reynolds and A Hall bt C Hall and F Kiddie at 19th; S Gallagher and R Fisher wo N Connolly and S Edwards; B and W J Marchbank bt S Mantell and C Tucker 1 hole; A Clark and N Lawrence bt N Hampton and R Smith 1 hole; G Redford and M Hastie bt C Harman and B Smith 1 hole; J Tucker and G Hickman bt S Griffiths and L Cox 1 hole; M Palmer and G Walmsley bt R Whitehead and N Coles 8 and 6; P Carr and R Hodgkinson bt J Paramor and A Drake 3 and 2; N Burke and W Grant bt A George and P Davis 5 and 4; R Hurst and T Paterson bt C Caldwell and M Hughesdon 1 hole; M Searle and J Pounder bt G Potter and K Kelsall 3 and 2; C and W Daley bt J Hay and M Savory 6 and 4.

S Roberts and C Coombes bt S Lambert and W Farrow 2 and 1; A Good and R Summerscales bt M Glynn and R Adams 3 and 2. L Walters and R Fenwick bt R Misra and C Manson 5 and 3; J Kemp and M Wilcox bt D Honan and R Davies 2 holes; M Roberts and I Campbell bt P Eady and D Moreland 2 and 1; J Donaldson and N Evans bt R Winchester and M Hazeldene 1 hole; L Fickling and M Deal bt R Duck and M King 3 and 2; K Godfrey and S Chapman bt B Sandry and D Watt 1 hole; S Vale and P Smith bt J Jermine and P Garner 2 and 1. R Lewis and A Rosenfeld bt N Blenkarne and C Lipscombe 1 hole; R Watkins and D Burnside bt R Bolton and N Hammond 5 and 3; T Craik and D King bt I Higgins and S McCarthy 2 and 1; M Newman and A Bott bt I and M Mackenzie 3 and 2; I Reay and D Mackinnon bt I Naylor and P Strachan Jr 5 and 4; P Sherman and P Page bt J Bradbrooke and M Stanton 5 and 3.

J Chillas and M Gray bt M and D Peel 4 and 3; C Panton-Lewis and M Devitta wo G and K Witt; I Parker and M Thompson bt A Mackenzie and P Anderson 3 and 2; W Stephens and M Gates bt M Howell and S Lloyd 8 and 7, M James and C Rodgers bt A Partridge and N Moult 4 and 3. J Challen (Sp) and C Challen bt P Delmas (Fr) and G D'Hollander (Fr) 3 and 1, N Harrington and J Doherty bt S Edwards and I Miller 6 and 5; J Hall and H Wadsworth bt R Pheasant and M Allen 5 and 4; M King and J Healy bt S Lowdell and M Gillham 3 and 1; J Robinson and D Jones bt D Rennie and A Northridge 8 and 7; L Jones and R Hurd bt L Farmer and K Lunn 1 hole; S Murray and C Ledger bt A Robertson and W Pike 7 and 5.

I McInally and R Commans bt P Lewin and M Hilton 2 and 1; L Richardson and P Adams bt I Rowlands and R Peet 2 and 1; G Hutcheon and F McGurk bt D Huish and I Smith 3 and 2. I Bullock and D Stockwell bt J Miller and S East 3 and 1; D Hudspith and J Carter bt B Gunson and G Brown 2 and 1; S Whiffin and J Jones bt A McLean and K Millar 2 and 1; L Owens and B McGovern bt R Hunter and G Leshford at 19th; I Roper and T Markwick bt J Bennett and H Stott at 23rd; T Stevens and J Lamb bt P Alabaster and G Harris at 19th; R Ellis and M Naylor bt B White and G Shoesmith 1 hole; M Foreman and N Hanson bt P Smith and G Gordon 3 and 1; K Maxwell and A Johnstone bt S Moon and I Howieson 4 and 3; S Geary and C Duffy bt J and K Brant 2 holes; G Edge and T Allen bt K Bayliss and M Hughes 3 and 2

RUGBY UNION

RFU denies threat to five nations' tournament

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

ENGLAND'S five nations' championship may be over but the wrangling off the field continues as intensely as ever, thanks to a whispering campaign that will only add to the season-long impression of a governing body at odds with itself. The target now has become Tony Hallett, the Rugby Football Union (RFU) secretary, and a small number of leading officials.

John Richardson, the RFU president, found himself forced yesterday to defend his union's position regarding the future of the championship, in the face of accusations by Fran Cotton that England and France seek an alliance with the leading southern-hemisphere nations. Such comments, Richardson said, "defy belief and leave us to query his [Cotton's] motives".

Cotton, who will manage the British Isles in South Africa this summer, has been a regular contributor to the political debate in England over the past 15 months — a large representative of the small man, one might say. He claims that Hallett has misled the RFU membership over details of the television contract with BSkyB (the satellite broadcasting company part-owned by News International, owner of *The Times*), and that elements of the union's inner sanctum seek to break up the five nations' tournament.

"We have never expressed any wish to withdraw from the five nations'," Richardson said. "Indeed, only last September, it cost us considerable money to settle with the other countries regarding TV rights in order to stay in. We have always said that the five nations' is vital to us. It is an integral part of rugby.

"We have also said that, in order to compete with the best in the world, we must play the best. That is what we are doing before Christmas. We have fixtures with South Africa, Australia and New Zealand in that period, as well as playing Australia in Sydney in July. While we wish for regular fixtures with the southern-hemisphere countries, we remain absolutely committed to the five nations'."

Bernard Lapasset, Richardson's opposite number in France, was equally surprised by Cotton's claims. "We rate the five nations' tournament very highly," Lapasset said, from a position of some influence given that France have just achieved the grand slam for only the fifth time in their history.

Neither country would dismiss the amalgam of social, political and sporting history that makes the five nations' the attractive commodity that it is.

At the same time, any self-respecting union must look beyond the confines of Europe to elevate its own standards, while acknowledging that the world of international rugby is not so large — in terms of quality — that traditional powers can be ignored if their playing standards have slipped, temporarily one hopes.

In fact, the rugby globe became substantially larger yesterday with the addition of China as the 76th member of the International Rugby Football Board (IRFB). The Chinese Rugby Football Association received its certificate of membership in Hong Kong. Technical staff from the Hong Kong Rugby Union have made a substantial input to the development, though their primary concerns this week will be for the success of the second Rugby World Cup sevens tournament this weekend. Hong Kong seek to become the permanent home for the tournament, building on the success of their own annual tournament, but face a bid from Ireland to host the 2001 competition.

England are defending the title they won at Murrayfield in 1993. Tim Rodber will captain the side after the withdrawal of Lawrence Dallaglio with illness.

ADRIAN SHERRATT

An Eagle House player breaks clear in the group C match against St Andrew's in the Preparatory Schools tournament

Canford triumph at first attempt

CANFORD cast off their reputation as a hockey-playing school to win the Festival tournament at the Rosslyn Park Schools Sevens yesterday (a Correspondent writes). Appearing in their first final, not to mention their first tournament this season, Canford won an exhilarating 31-26 victory over King's, Worcester.

The Dorset school had to overcome Bryanston, local rivals and the Festival holders, in a semi-final that finished 14-14 at the end of normal time. Ben Gollins, the Canford stand-off half, settled the tie in extra time with a sudden-death try.

The final itself was a freescoring affair with eight tries. Gollins, a member of the England Schools Under-18 squad last season, was again at the forefront of Canford's efforts, scoring two tries and three conversions, as well as putting in some crucial cover tackles.

King's, Worcester, coached by Steve Bain, the former Bedford and Loughborough Students player, had an easier path to the final, beating Christ College, Brecon, 22-7 in the other semi-final.

King's, beaten finalists in the Open tournament in 1989, scored the final's first two tries through Kaizen Matsumoto and Alan Trainer, but Gollins's pace and balance revived Canford.

Further scores from Mark Irvine, Nick Makin, the captain, and Charlie Robinson secured Canford's triumph. It was a fitting farewell for Lin Lewis, their coach, who retires at the end of the year.

The surprise of the group stages of the Junior tournament was the failure of Royal Grammar School, Guildford, the holders, to qualify for the knockout stages. Nor did Royal Grammar School, High Wycombe, the runners-up last year, qualify for the quarter-finals today.

In the Preparatory Schools tournament, St Olave's, York, the holders, were also knocked out, but the Dragon School, Oxford, runners-up last year, are through to the quarter-finals. Caldicott, often a dangerous side in this event, enjoyed a 32-0 victory over St John's, Beaumont, in the first round of the knockout stage, and are fancied to do well today.

RESULTS FROM THE ROSSLYN PARK SCHOOLS SEVENS

FESTIVAL TOURNAMENT

KNOCKOUT STAGE (winners of adjacent groups play off against each other): G/H: King's, Bruton and Sevenoaks both had byes. M/N: Wycliffe 17 King's, Worcester 26. O/P: St George's, Weybridge 21 Marlborough 12.
SECOND ROUND: Bryanston 21 Wellington Coll 7; Eton 31 King's, Bruton 7; Sevenoaks 12 Canford 26; Cranleigh 14 Radley 29, St George's, Weybridge 12 Dulwich 15. Byes: Eastbourne, King's, Worcester; Christ College, Brecon.
QUARTER-FINALS: Bryanston 17 Eton 5; Canford 31 Eastbourne 21; King's, Worcester 22 Dulwich 7, Christ College 19 Radley 12.

SEMI-FINALS: Bryanston 14 Canford 19 (aet); King's, Worcester 22 Christ College 7.

FINAL: Canford 31 King's, Worcester 26.

JUNIOR TOURNAMENT

GROUP WINNERS: A: Eltham. B: Afon. C: Donhead. D: Dulwich. E: Dartford. F: London Oratory. G: St Olave's, Kent. H: Queen Elizabeth's, Barnet. I: Broxbourne. J: Aylesbury. K: Whitgift. L: Olchfa. M: Bedford Modern. N: St George's, Harpenden. O: Bristol. P: Colfe's. Q: Castleford. R: Plymouth. S: Manchester.

KNOCKOUT STAGE: Eltham 24 Afon 5; Donhead 22 Dulwich 10. Dartford 17 London Oratory 47; St Olave's, Kent 29 Queen Elizabeth's, Barnet 24; Broxbourne 26 Aylesbury 14; Whitgift 27 Olchfa 28; Bedford Modern 30 St George's, Harpenden 7; Bristol 19 Colfe's 0; Bristol 15 Castleford 26; Plymouth 10 Manchester 31, Eltham 19 Donhead 28.

QUARTER-FINAL DRAW: Donhead v London Oratory; St Olave's, Kent v Broxbourne; Olchfa v Bedford Modern; Castleford v Manchester.

PREPARATORY SCHOOLS TOURNAMENT

KNOCKOUT STAGE (group winners). St Olave's, York 7 Mount House 22: St John's, Beaumont 0 Caldicott 32; Mowden Hall 15 Hazlegrove 17; Downsend 5 Bromsgrove 17; St Mary's Hall 12 Millfield Prep 5; Papplewick 7 Wolborough Hill 12; Newlands 22 Winchester House 7; Prior Park 0 The Dragon 17.

QUARTER-FINAL DRAW: Mount House v Caldicott; Hazlegrove v Bromsgrove; St Mary's Hall v Wolborough Hill; Newlands v Dragon.

CRICKET

Williams reaches personal landmark

By Our Sports Staff

STUART WILLIAMS completed his maiden Test century for West Indies against India before lunch on the final day of the second Test at Queen's Park Oval, Trinidad, yesterday, as the match ambled towards a draw.

Williams, surprisingly chosen for this Test ahead of Robert Samuels, who toured Australia earlier this year with West Indies, went to lunch on 102 not out, with Shivnarine Chanderpaul unbeaten on 71. That left the home side with a 52-run advantage at the interval.

In reaching his hundred, in his fourteenth Test, Williams struck nine fours and one six, batting for just under six hours and facing 241 balls. Neither batsman had many problems during the morning session, although Chanderpaul was fortunate not to be given out on 42 when Prasad looked to have found the outside edge to Mongia; but Lloyd Barker turned down the appeal.

The second-wicket stand between Williams and Chanderpaul was worth 176, a record for West Indies against India at Port of Spain. The previous record was 119, between Easton McMorris and Rohan Kanhai, in the 1961-62 series.

Chanderpaul fell shortly after lunch, and Brian Lara, on his home ground, again disappointed the Trinidad supporters with a subdued 19. The interminably slow progress made by the West Indies batsmen left India no chance of even attempting a run chase for victory.

That means that the series will remain level, with the first Test having been drawn. The sides will meet again, for the third Test in a five-match series, on March 27 in Barbados.

WEST INDIES: First Innings 296 (R I C Holder 91; A R Kumble 5 for 104).

Second Innings

S L Campbell lbw b Kuruvilla	4
S C Williams c Kumble b Joshi	128
S Chanderpaul c Azharuddin b Joshi	79
B C Lara c Azharuddin b Kumble	19
C L Hooper not out	12
R I C Holder not out	2
Extras (b 4, lb 13, nb 2)	19
Total (4 wkts)	263

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-25, 2-201, 3-244, 4-252.

BOWLING: Prasad 20-7-38-0; Kuruvilla 23-6-47-1; Kumble 33-8-88-1; Joshi 30-11-49-2; Ganguly 3-0-6-0; Laxman 9-3-21-0

INDIA: First Innings 436 (N S Sidhu 201, S R Tendulkar 88, R S Dravid 57, C E L Ambrose 5 for 87)

Umpires: L R Barker (West Indies) and S G Randell (Australia).

IN BRIEF

Experiment succeeds for Scottish selectors

SCOTLAND'S bowls selectors, roundly criticised for dropping Joyce Lindores, the 1996 British indoor singles champion, and Jan Woodley, the former world champion, for the women's home international series in Perth, wore broad smiles yesterday after their experimental side proved much too good for Ireland (David Rhys Jones writes).

The Scots, who last won the British team title in 1994, scored 69 shots to 24 over the last hour or so to win 139-96. England, the holders, fielded Catherine Anton and Mandy Jacklin, the new British pairs champions, and beat Wales by 134 shots to 99.

Running battle

Athletics: A 12,000-strong petition demanding the retention of the athletics facilities at Crystal Palace was presented at the House of Commons yesterday. Among the MPs who received the petition was Sir Terence Higgins, a former international 400 metres runner, who reported an encouraging response from Iain Sproat, the Minister for Sport.

Rusedski doubt

Tennis: Greg Rusedski's hopes of playing in Great Britain's Davis Cup Euro-Africa zone tie with Zimbabwe receded yesterday after he was forced to pull out of the St Petersburg tournament with a wrist injury.

☐ Tim Henman has been seeded No 14 for the Lipton championships, which begin in Florida on Thursday.

Late shows

Hockey: A goal five minutes from time gave Holland a 3-3 draw against Pakistan in the five-nation Golden Jubilee tournament in Karachi yesterday. Germany beat Australia, scoring ten seconds from the end to earn a 2-1 win.

Law courted

Cricket: Stuart Law has agreed to return to Essex this summer — provided that he is not included in Australia's squad to tour England.

All aboard

Rowing: More than 80 schools and clubs have entered 340 crews for the 51st Schools Head today.

SQUASH: MANCHESTER FALL SHORT DESPITE IRISHMAN'S DEFEAT OF JANSHER

Ryan's heroics fail to halt LionHerts

By Colin McQuillan

DEREK RYAN inflicted only the fourteenth defeat in a decade of senior competition on Jansher Khan when he overcame the world champion 10-8, 6-9, 9-3, 9-3 in the rubber that decided the last fixture of the Super League season 2-1 in favour of Rowlands Manchester against Surbiton. Both teams had needed to win 3-0 to stand a chance of taking the title.

The championship was, instead, emphatically claimed by ICL LionHerts, the holders, who crushed Ellis Lingfield in Welwyn Garden City. Chris Walker, the England captain, defeated Rodney Eyles, the world No 2, 9-7, 5-9, 10-8, 9-8 at first string. Del Harris beat Peter Nicol, the world No 3, 8-9, 9-2, 9-8, 9-8 and Mark Chaloner emerged victorious against Stephen Meads, 9-7, 8-10, 9-5, 9-6.

The win took the defending champions a point clear of the resting Dunraven Maesteg team, which had led the league last week after a similarly unexpected win over Lingfield.

Jansher's one-off appearance for Surbiton might have been the means of achieving an extraordinary win for the Surrey side. The tie had started promisingly for Surbiton with a home point when Julien Bonetat, the French champion, defeated Nick Taylor in the third-string rubber.

However, Simon Parke, the England No 2, lost unexpectedly to Paul Johnson and then Jansher, 28, found Ryan in unstoppable form. The Irish champion will have relished a win that he forced by spirited all-out attack after trailing 8-5 in the opening game, particularly as he has drawn Jansher in the first round of the British Open championship next month.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES 0171-782 7344

PUBLIC NOTICES

BARKER, MURIEL MOREEN BARKER SPINSTER late of Oakwood, London N14 died there on 12 June 1995 (Estate about £40,000)
BUBE nee SMAILES, WINIFRED EMMA BUBE nee SMAILES WIDOW late of Gants Hill, Ilford, Essex died at Goodmayes, Essex on 11 May 1996 (Estate about £200,000)
CRASHLEY, IRENE CRASHLEY SPINSTER late of Great Limber, Lincolnshire died there on 17 April 1996 (Estate about £25,000)
DACRES nee PARRIS, EILEEN CARLOTTA DACRES nee PARRIS WIDOW late of Forest Gate, London E7 died at Plaistow, London E13 on 30 April 1996 (Estate about £35,000)
DEAN nee HOLMANS, GLADYS EMILY DEAN nee HOLMANS WIDOW late of Hereford died there on 17 October 1996 (Estate about £5,500)
DOWER, HERBERT JOHN DOWER late of Hull, Humberside died there on or about 12 January 1996 (Estate about £28,000)
DUNN otherwise CARNEY, ANN DUNN otherwise ANN CARNEY SPINSTER late of Victoria, London SW1 died at Fulham, London W6 on 19 January 1997 (Estate about £248,000)
FIELD, DENNIS EDWARD FIELD late of Barkingside, Ilford, Essex died there on 6 May 1996 (Estate about £80,000)
FISHER, ALFRED THOMAS FISHER late of Wimblington, Cambridgeshire died there on 5 March 1996 (Estate about £5,000)
FISHER, JOHN WILLIAM CHARLES VICTOR FISHER late of Hastings, East Sussex died at St Leonards on Sea, East Sussex on 2 July 1996 (Estate about £6,300)
HARRINGTON nee GODDARD, ANNIE HARRINGTON nee GODDARD WIDOW late of Crawley, West Sussex died there on 7 June 1996 (Estate about £40,000)
HINTON-GORE otherwise GORE otherwise Taylor nee HINTON, PAULA HINTON-GORE otherwise PAULA DORIS GORE otherwise PAULA DORIS TAYLOR nee HINTON WIDOW late of Birkenhead, Merseyside died there on 5 November 1996 (Estate about £17,000)
KOWALSKI, JOHN KOWALSKI late of Bristol, Avon died there on 19 May 1996 (Estate about £9,000)
MIDSON, ETHEL ROSE MARY MIDSON otherwise ROSE MARY MIDSON otherwise MARY MIDSON SPINSTER late of Torquay, Devon died there on 8 March 1996 (Estate about £8,400)
PASCOE, EDITH MARY PASCOE SPINSTER late of North Finchley, London N12 died there on 5 February 1997 (Estate about £150,000)
ROBERTSON, CHARLES ROBERTSON late of Kentish Town, London NW5 died there on 12 January 1996 (Estate about £85,000)
SMITH, ALBERT SMITH otherwise ALBERT EDWARD SMITH late of New Cross, London SE14 died at Southwark, London SE1 on 12 August 1996 (Estate about £11,000)
SMITH, FRANK SMITH late of St Johns Wood, London NW8 died at North Kensington, London NW10 on 19 November 1994 (Estate about £7,000)
TEGUES, CHARLES WILLIAM TEGUES late of St Leonards on Sea, East Sussex died there on 27 January 1996 (Estate about £5,300)
TUCKER, BERNARD TUCKER late of Derby, Derbyshire died there on 26 June 1996 (Estate about £86,000)
TUCKER, MABEL TUCKER SPINSTER late of Enfield, Middlesex died there on 6 February 1996 (Estate about £25,000)
WAKEFIELD, ANNIE WAKEFIELD SPINSTER late of Camberley, Surrey died there on 16 November 1996 (Estate about £8,000)
WARNER, MAUD FLORENCE WARNER SPINSTER late of Maidstone, Kent died there on 9 April 1994 (Estate about £5,800)
WELSH otherwise WELCH, ELLEN WELSH otherwise ELLEN WELCH SPINSTER late of Catford, London SE6 died there on 20 June 1994 (Estate about £16,000)
WITTICH nee WHITTLE, JOYCE WITTICH nee WHITTLE WIDOW late of Llanferres, Flintshire died there on 10 October 1996 (Estate about £125,000)

The kin of the above-named are requested to apply to the Treasury Solicitor (BV), Queen Anne's Chambers, 28 Broadway, London SW1H 9JS, failing which the Treasury Solicitor may take steps to administer the estate.

CHARITY COMMISSION
Charity: Eleanor Mary Frances Reeve, deceased
Scheme
Reference: PC-3060461/44860-CD(Ldn)

The Charity Commissioners have made a Scheme for this charity. A copy can be seen for the next month at Vaughan & Davies, Solicitors, 32 Duke Street, Kington, Herefordshire, HR5 3BW (ref: CMT/JDW/Reeve) or a copy can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to St. Alban's House, 57-60 Haymarket, London SW1Y 4QX quoting the reference above.

CHARITY COMMISSION
Charity: North London Revival Bookshop
Scheme
Reference: TG/57241G1/CD(Ldn)

The Charity Commissioners have made a Scheme for this charity. A copy can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to the Charity Commission, St Albans House, 57-60 Haymarket, London SW1Y 4QX quoting the reference above.

LEGAL NOTICES

No.31628 of 1996
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
BIRMINGHAM DISTRICT REGISTRY
IN THE MATTER OF RESIDENTIAL RECOVERIES PLC
AND
IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Order of the High Court of Justice, (Chancery Division, Birmingham District Registry), dated 24 February 1997 confirming the reduction of the Share Premium Account of the Company resolved on and effected by a special resolution passed at the Extraordinary General Meeting of the Company held on 2 October 1996 was registered by the Registrar of Companies on 11 March 1997

DATED this 14 day of March 1997
Eversheds
10 Newhall Street
Birmingham, B3 3LX
Solicitors for the above-named Company. Ref: MRL/MJXH/28
Tel: 0121 233 2001

NOTICE of resolution for payment of capital
EAST LANCASHIRE WAREHOUSING LIMITED

NOTICE is hereby given in accordance with section 175 of the Companies Act 1985 that:
1. the above named company ("the Company") has approved a payment out of capital for the purpose of acquiring its own shares by purchase,
2. the amount of the permissible capital payment for the shares in question is £590,733,
3. the date for the resolution for payment out of capital is 7th March 1997,
4. a statutory declaration and auditors' report required by section 173 of the Companies Act 1985 are available for inspection at the Company's registered office, and
5. any creditor of the Company may at any time within the five weeks immediately following the date of the resolution for payment out of capital apply to the Court under section 176 of the Companies Act 1985 for an order prohibiting payment.

Company Secretary JEAN MAUDSLEY
Authenticated for advertising in the Gazette by:
NEIL JOHN HOWARD FCA
being a CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT of HOWARD CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
10-12 WELLINGTON ST (ST JOHNS)
BLACKBURN LANCS BB1 8AG

Mora Ltd. (Formerly Brady Neary & Sons Ltd)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of the creditors of the above named company will be held at the offices of Leonard Curtis & Co, situated at 30 Eastbourne Terrace, (2nd Floor), London W2 6LF, on 27th March 1997 at 12.00 for the purposes provided in Section 98 et seq.

It is not intended to propose any resolutions at the meeting concerning Liquidators remuneration, however the meeting may receive information about, or be called upon to approve, the costs of preparing the statement of affairs and convening the meeting.

A list of names and addresses of the above company's creditors can be inspected at the offices of Leonard Curtis & Co, PO Box 553, 30 Eastbourne Terrace, (2nd Floor), London W2 6LF, between the hours of 10.00am to 4.00pm on the two business days preceding the Meeting of Creditors.

DATED THIS 13th March 1997
John V Neary - Director

NOTICE OF INTENDED DIVIDEND
In the matter of
THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
and in the matter of
SENATE MANAGEMENT SERVICES LIMITED
(IN LIQUIDATION)
High Court number: 1512 of 1995

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that it is my intention to declare a first dividend to creditors of the above named company. Creditors who have not yet done so are required, on or before 14 April 1997 to send their proof of debt to R S Preece of Deloitte & Touche, Hill House, 1 Little New Street, London EC4A 3TR, the Joint Liquidator of the company, and if so requested, to provide such further details or produce such documentary or other evidence as may appear to the Joint Liquidators to be necessary. A creditor who has not proved his debt by the date specified will be excluded from the dividend. The first and final dividend will be declared no later than 4 months from the last date of proving.

Dated: 13 March 1997
R S Preece, Joint Liquidator

I GI Bennet, Chartered Accountant of 1 Blythswood Square, Glasgow, hereby give notice that I was appointed with my partner DM Ghosh as joint receiver of the whole of the property and undertaking of Dundee Textiles Limited under the terms of Section 51 and 52 of the Insolvency Act 1986 on 26 February 1997.

In accordance with the provisions of Section 69 of the said Act, Preferential Creditors are requested to lodge their claims with me within six months of this notice.

GI Bennet
28 February 1997

THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
HARVESTHAND LIMITED (IN LIQUIDATION)

Pursuant to Rule 11.2 of the Insolvency Act 1986, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the last date for proving debts against the above named company, which is being voluntarily wound up, is Wednesday 30 April 1997, by which claims must be sent to the undersigned, B A Mackay of Grant Thornton, Ashdown House, 125 High Street, Crawley, RH10 1DQ, the Liquidator of the company.

Notice is further given that the liquidator intends to declare an interim dividend by 30 August 1997.

DATED THIS 12 DAY OF MARCH 1997
B A Mackay, Liquidator

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By Robert Sheehan, Bridge Correspondent

In the Macallan Camrose match between England and Scotland in December, I played against an old rubber bridge adversary, John Matheson. He is wittily known as "Scottish" at TGR's.

Dealer West Love all IMPs

North: ♠A6432 ♥KJ5 ♦86 ♣654
West: ♠K1087 ♥Q83 ♦KQJ742 ♣—
East: ♠QJ5 ♥6 ♦A1093 ♣Q10832
South: ♠9 ♥A109742 ♦5 ♣AKJ97

W	N	E	S
Matheson	Senior	Steel	Sheehan
1D	1S	2S	3H
4D	4H	5D	5H
All Pass			

Contract: Five Hearts by South. Lead: king of diamonds

East's Two Spade bid showed a sound raise to Three Diamonds. Otherwise the auction was natural.

East overtook the king of diamonds with the ace and returned the three of clubs. I played the ace and West ruffed. He continued with a trump, so I was able to draw trumps ending in dummy, take a club finesse, cross to the ace of spades, take another club finesse, and finally ruff my last club in dummy.

Note that if West returns a spade after taking his club ruff, that removes a key entry. I can't take the club finesse immediately, as West still holds two trumps. It seems West should find this defence: the return of the three of clubs marks East with at most five, so it is quite likely that declarer is 1-6-1-5. When I sat next to Matheson at the concluding dinner, it was clear that he had worked on the analysis for 24 hours. He triumphantly revealed why his defence might have been correct.

Give South:

♠x ♥A109xxx ♦x ♣AKQ72

and the trump switch is the only way to beat the contract. Otherwise I can arrange to ruff three spades in hand, using the ace of spades and king and jack of hearts as entry to dummy, then finally enter dummy with a club ruff to cash the fifth spade. What do you think?

☐ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

CESTUS
a. Aphrodite's girdle
b. A loaded boxing glove
c. The Greek discus

CHAKRA
a. A Buddhist stupa
b. Toadflax
c. A disc-shaped knife

CHALAZA
a. A Bohemian dance
b. A Buddhist stupa
c. An egg-string

CHANDLER'S WOBBLE
a. One over the eight
b. Displacement of Earth's axis
c. A flickering candle

Answers on page 46

KEENE on CHESS

By Raymond Keene
Chess Correspondent

Party pieces

Among chessplaying Members of Parliament, past and present, the strongest was undoubtedly Marmaduke Wyvill, a past MP for Richmond, Yorkshire. Wyvill took second prize in the first ever international chess tournament, held at London in 1851.

In the present Parliament one of the strongest MPs also represents Richmond, but his constituency is located at the other end of the country from Wyvill's. In the game today, Jeremy Hanley MP (Con, Richmond and Barnes) nearly holds his own against Kasparov. After an unfortunate opening, White defended a difficult position with great ingenuity. However, on move 27 White missed his chance. By playing 27 g4 he would have gained some freedom of movement for his king, offered an exchange of kingside pawns and maintained an active rook. In that case White might have gained a draw.

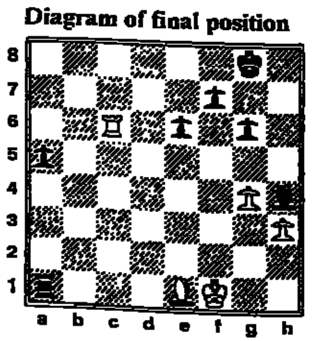
White: Jeremy Hanley MP
Black: Garry Kasparov
Simultaneous Display
House of Commons, May 1989

Sicilian Defence

1	e4	c5
2	d4	cxd4
3	Qxd4	Nc6
4	Qd1	g6
5	Nf3	Bg7
6	Bd3	d6
7	Nbd2	Nf6
8	0-0	0-0
9	h3	d5
10	exd5	Nxd5
11	Ne4	Ndb4
12	Nc3	Nxd3
13	cxd3	Bf5
14	Ne1	Nb4
15	Be3	Nxd3
16	Nxd3	Qxd3
17	Qxd3	Bxd3
18	Rfd1	Rfd8
19	Rd2	Bc4
20	Rad1	Rxd2
21	Rxd2	Be6
22	Nd5	Bxd5
23	Rxd5	Bxb2
24	Rd7	Bf6
25	Rxb7	a6
26	a4	h5
27	Bc5	e6
28	Rb6	h4
29	g4	hxg3
30	fxg3	Rc8
31	Bf2	Rc1+
32	Kg2	Rc2
33	Rd6	Ra2
34	Kf1	Rxa4
35	g4	a5
36	Rc6	Ra1+
37	Be1	Bh4

White resigns

Diagram of final position



Times book

The Times Winning Moves 2 contains 240 chess puzzles from international grandmaster Raymond Keene's daily column in *The Times*, and is available now from bookshops or from B. T. Batsford Ltd (tel: 01376 321276 at £6.99 plus postage and packing).

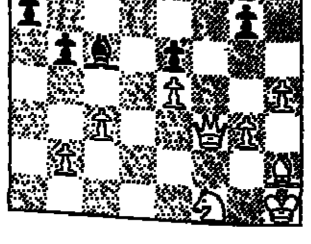
☐ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

Black to play. This position is from the game Alekseev — Razuvaev, USSR 1969. The black bishops control two strong diagonals leading to the white king. Can you see how Black, exploiting this factor, now won with a fine penetrating manoeuvre?

Solution on page 46



هكذا من الأصل

FOOTBALL: NORWEGIAN FORWARD EXPECTED TO PLAY AT FILBERT STREET AS LONDON CLUB PURSUES PLACE IN EUROPE

Tottenham lifted by Iversen's striking recovery

By Russell Kempson

TOTTENHAM Hotspur's modest revival, after successive victories against Sunderland and Leeds United, has resurrected their hopes of qualifying for the Uefa Cup next season. This evening they continue their quest to salvage something from an injury-scarred FA Carling Premiership campaign when they play Leicester City, the Coca-Cola Cup finalists, at Filbert Street.

Though good news from the White Hart Lane treatment room has been scarce, it is likely that Steffen Iversen, the Norway Under-21 striker, will be able to play tonight. He was replaced eight minutes from the end of the 1-0 win against Leeds on Saturday and it was feared that ligament damage to his right knee could prematurely end his season.

However, a scan on Monday night provided a more accurate diagnosis. "Steffen has extensive bruising to the bone but the ligaments appear to be intact," Tony Lenaghan, the Tottenham physiotherapist, said yesterday. "He has trained and been running and if he can cope with the pain, then he should be OK to play."

Darren Anderton, who scored the winning goal against Leeds, may not be so fortunate. He has missed a large part of the season with groin and knee problems and is now troubled by a hamstring strain. "We need to make further investigations," Lenaghan said. "He might not be ready until the weekend."

Chris Armstrong, the Tottenham striker, has not played since December because of an ankle injury, which subsequently became infected, but his recovery has picked up pace. "Hopefully, I'm not too far away," he said yesterday. "All I need is a few reserve games under my belt and then maybe I can get back in the first team before the end of the season."

"I've lost a bit of fitness, I know that already, and I don't want to rush back before I'm ready. It's not worth trying to play half-fit and then making things worse."

Chelsea, who play Southampton at Stamford Bridge this evening, have delayed selection until Andy Myers, the defender, undergoes a fitness test. He was taken off during the second half of the 6-2 win against Sunderland on Sunday after a challenge from Alex Rae had left him with thigh, knee and shin injuries.

Mel Bush, the music promoter, has tabled a late bid to save Bournemouth, the struggling Nationwide League second division club that faces a winding-up order over unpaid taxes in the High Court tomorrow. Bush has made an undisclosed offer to the club's Receivers.

Though a £1 million takeover attempt from the Bournemouth Trust Fund was rejected by Lloyds Bank, the club's main creditor, last week, Bush's intervention could earn the club much-needed breathing space.

"It will be good to be able to go to the court and show them that we have two interested parties," Alan Lewis, the Receiver, said yesterday. "Things look a bit brighter than they were."

□ David Busst, the Coventry City defender whose career was cut short by injury, will profit from a visit to Highfield Road by Manchester United. Busst suffered horrific leg injuries playing for Coventry at Old Trafford and Alex Ferguson, the United manager, has agreed to take a United side to play a Coventry XI, including Ally McCoist and Paul Gascoigne, in a benefit match on May 16.

Dowie returns to spur Northern Ireland

IAIN DOWIE, the West Ham United striker, yesterday celebrated his comeback from injury with a swift return to the Northern Ireland squad for the back-to-back World Cup qualifying matches against Portugal and Ukraine.

Dowie scored both goals in Northern Ireland's 2-0 win over Albania in their last group nine qualifier and returns after missing the games against Italy and Belgium with a broken ankle.

Bryan Hamilton, the Northern Ireland manager, said: "I'm delighted that Iain is fit again. He always leads by example and is a very important influence on our squad."

The first match is against Portugal in Belfast on Saturday week, with the second away to Ukraine in Kiev four days later. Other notable inclusions are James Quinn, of Blackpool, and Philip Mulryne, of Manchester United, who both scored in the victory over Belgium last month.

Michael Hughes, of West Ham, and Kevin Horlock, of Manchester City, are included, but can only play against Ukraine as they are suspended for the Portugal game. Hamilton is already looking for another goalkeeper as Roy Carroll, of Hull City, has pulled out through injury.

Hamilton is aware that his team must win both games to keep their World Cup hopes afloat but remains confident. Although Portugal won on their last trip to Windsor Park two years ago, Hamilton said: "Things have changed since then. We've put together some good performances and I believe we have the talent to beat them."

SQUAD: T Wright (Manchester City), A Fettis (Nottingham Forest), B Hunter (Reading), C Hill (Leicester City), N Lennon (Leicester City), S Lomas (Manchester City), J Quinn (Blackpool), K Horlock (Manchester City), I Nolan (Sheffield Wednesday), J McCarthy (Port Vale), K Gillespie (Newcastle United), N Worthington (Stoke City), J Magilton (Southampton), S Morrow (Arsenal), G Taggart (Bolton Wanderers), P Mulryne (Manchester United), I Dowie (West Ham United), M Hughes (West Ham United), G O'Boyle (St Johnstone), D Griffin (St Johnstone).

PHIL COLE/ALLSPORT

Dichio, the QPR striker, who has been courted by Sampdoria, the Italian club

Dichio may move to Sampdoria

DANIELE DICHIO, the Queens Park Rangers striker, is expected to move to Sampdoria, the Italian league club, on a free transfer this summer.

Stewart Houston, his manager, expressed surprise at reports that Dichio, who rejected a move to Wimbledon last week, had already informed the club of his plans to sign a three-year deal with Sampdoria when his present contract expires in June.

"It is news to me but not a great surprise that he wants to go elsewhere," Houston said. "We agreed to sell him to Wimbledon last week, but he declined their offer and said he would stay with us for the rest of the season. I was happy with that but I haven't been told of any move to Sampdoria."

QPR will not receive a penny if Dichio joins Sampdoria as a free agent under the Bosman ruling. Dichio, 22, could even become an Italy international if he establishes himself in Serie A, despite being born in London, because his father is Italian.

Arsenal yesterday signed Alexander Manninger, 19, a goalkeeper from Casino Graz, the Austrian club, for a fee believed to be around £500,000 after he impressed Arsène Wenger, the Arsenal manager, in a two-day trial at Highbury. Manninger has returned to Casino Graz for the remainder of the season.

Celtic yesterday learnt that Paolo Di Canio, their striker, will miss their Scottish League match against Dunfermline Athletic on Saturday after receiving a one-match ban.

Hugh Dallas, the referee at the match against Rangers last Sunday, showed Di Canio a yellow card when he squared up to Ian Ferguson after the final whistle at Celtic Park. It technically added up to a sending-off because he had been booked earlier in the game.

SAILING

Edwards gains backing for global venture

By Edward Gorman, Sailing Correspondent

TRACY EDWARDS was finally able to announce a substantial sponsorship package yesterday which will enable her and an all-women crew to have a go at winning the Jules Verne Trophy for the fastest non-stop circumnavigation of the globe. The Royal SunAlliance will back her to the tune of £4.27 million.

The announcement at Greenwich followed frustration last year when long negotiations with a potential sponsor fell through, forcing the postponement of the attempt, which had been planned for January this year. Now Edwards has rescheduled the start for January next year at the end of a training programme which will include the Transatlantic Challenge in late May and the Round Britain Challenge in July.

Edwards will sail the Nigel Irens-designed 92ft catamaran, ENZA New Zealand, in which Sir Peter Blake and Sir Robin Knox-Johnston won the Jules Verne in 1994 after a voyage lasting just 74 days, 22 hours, 17min 22sec. Edwards and her crew will be hard-pressed to better that performance, though they will be aided by recent modifications to the catamaran.

This will be a high-profile campaign for Edwards, which will be followed closely by the public and by the male-dominated grand prix sailing fraternity, among whom are many who predict that she and her colleagues will have their hands full coping with the giant yacht.

Edwards, however, is delighted to have secured such a substantial sponsorship package, which is made up of a sailing budget thought to be around £2 million, with the remainder devoted to worldwide marketing of the project. "I am thrilled to have the Royal SunAlliance as our sponsor," Edwards said. "From the outset, their enthusiasm has been overwhelming."

In the BT Global Challenge, Richard Merrriweather's Commercial Union caused a scare yesterday when one of her EPIRB transmitters was swept overboard, automatically activating a satellite distress signal which was picked up in Australia from a position about 1,400 miles east of the Kerguelen Islands. Merriweather quickly reported the loss of the device and the false alarm was identified. Group 4 is the race leader with 3,700 miles to sail to Cape Town.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Pendlebury to coach Blue Sox

By Christopher Irvine

HALIFAX Blue Sox will today announce the appointment of John Pendlebury, the Wigan assistant coach and a former Halifax player, as their coach. He will succeed Steve Sims, the Australian, who departed for Thrum Hall three weeks ago.

The appointment of Pendlebury, a memebr of Halifax's 1987 Challenge Cup-winning side, brings the number of home-grown coaches among the 11 English Super League clubs to six in an increasing trend away from bringing coaches in from overseas.

Martin Dermott, the former Great Britain hooker, is thinking of retiring after the surprise decision by Warrington this week to give him and two other international players, Willie Swann, of Western Samoa, and Mateaki Mafi, of Tonga, free transfers, after defeats by Salford and Bradford Bulls.

Dermott, 29, was seen as central to Warrington's plans when he arrived last September from Wigan. The last two of his 12 years at Central Park were dogged by persistent injury, but Dermott had fought his way back only to find himself unwanted.

Andy Platt is having treatment for a hamstring injury but the prop is confident of being fit for Salford's Silk Cut Challenge Cup semi-final against St Helens at Central Park on Saturday.

SNOOKER

White has title in his sights

From Phil Yates
in Co Kildare

JIMMY WHITE has not won the Benson and Hedges Irish Masters since 1986, but last night he confidently predicted that he can win the 1997 event here at Goffs on Sunday. Not even the prospect of facing Stephen Hendry, the world champion, in the next round appeared to worry the Londoner, 34, after an impressive 6-3 first-round victory over Alan McManus.

White suffered a mid-match stutter against his Scottish opponent after capturing the opening four frames, but he went on to reach only his second quarter-final of the season.

Hendry has prevailed in their recent meetings in Aberdeen and Bangkok, though their encounter in the Thailand Open last week was a disappointing affair. "Stephen is like a machine, but if I can get past him there is no reason why I can't go all the way," White, whose appearance again drew a large crowd to the Goffs Arena, said. "Every match now is part of the build-up to the world championship."

In contrast, these are worring times for McManus, the world No 6. He has drifted to No 11 on the provisional world rankings and, against White, potted only six balls in the first three frames.

RESULT: First round: J White (Eng) bt A McManus (Scot) 6-3.

Gallagher fights back to achieve his golden goal

Russell Kempson talks to a leading referee whose career was threatened by injury

Euro 96 may have been a chastening experience for England's players and supporters, the penalty shoot-out defeat to Germany in the semi-finals causing suffering on an apparently epidemic scale. Though the lasting memories are unpleasant, especially for Gareth Southgate, time has healed.

For Dermot Gallagher, referee, the European championship nightmare went on and on and on ... for nine months. He snapped an Achilles tendon in his left leg, after only 28 minutes of the group B match between France and Bulgaria, and was forced to retire hurt.

His tournament had ended, barely before it had started, and his career, too, appeared threatened. It took almost four months for the damage to be correctly diagnosed, then followed 18 days in plaster, after surgery, and two months on crutches. Rehabilitation has been slow, painful and frustrating. Only last week, finally, did he return to the FA Carling Premiership stage.

"I remember awarding a goal kick, running backwards and then turning," Gallagher, who takes charge of the game between Middlesbrough and Blackburn Rovers at the Riverside Stadium tonight, said. "I felt this almighty pain in my leg but thought it was either a spasm or I'd torn a calf muscle. The leg then went dead. I couldn't feel a thing."

Gallagher, unable to walk, handed over the whistle to Paul Durkin. Subsequent treatment, plus hours of physiotherapy, failed to pinpoint the root cause and it was not until he underwent an operation in October that progress became tangible. "It was not an ordinary snap of the tendon, it had not split apart," he said. "What had happened was that it had snapped longways, north to south, in an elliptical shape. It was 1½ inches deep and the piece in the middle had decomposed, so it had to be cut out."

As one of the most highly regarded officials in Europe — he refereed the FA Cup final between Liverpool and Manchester United last season and has also blown the whistle in Brazil, South Africa and Qatar — the inactivity could have proved soul-destroying. The gnawing doubt over whether he would resume his career only added to his sense of foreboding.

"The longer it went on, there was always that fear," Gallagher, 39, said, "but I knuckled down, kept myself as mentally and physically fit as possible and did everything my physio told me to.

"I must have gone to watch about 50 matches, from the Premiership right down to the Hellenic League, and I've attended referees' meetings all over the place. I needed to get out and about; I didn't want people to think I was wallowing in self-pity."

Gallagher, the commercial manager and press relations officer at Witney Town, the Dr Martens League southern division club, is back. He refereed Sheffield Wednesday's 2-1 win against Sunderland last week and Tottenham Hotspur's 1-0 victory against Leeds United on Saturday. He has also retaken and passed his fitness test for Fifa, the sport's world governing body.

He needs inserts in his shoes and boots to counteract the legacy of the injury but, otherwise, experiences no ill-effects. "The insert raises the heel, which then contracts the Achilles," he said. "It was a bit strange at first — it felt like walking in a hole, as if I was going round in circles — but it's all right now."

Gallagher was afforded a generous welcome at Hillsborough and White Hart Lane, disproving the theory that most Premiership clubs view referees as no more than a necessary evil. "It surprised me, but meant a lot," he said.

"The Sheffield game was on a Wednesday, lottery night, and I felt as though I had won it. I felt euphoric after the game and the next day, too. It was a great day when I first made it onto the Premiership list and it feels as if I've now done it a second time.

"Every game is now so important to me. I look back to when I thought it might all be going to end, all those dark moments. It's like I'm starting all over again."

FOR THE RECORD

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Boston 126 Milwaukee 117; Atlanta 112 Orlando 107 (OT); Utah 114 Charlotte 93; Cleveland 85 Detroit 82; Washington 109 San Antonio 85; LA Lakers 113 Denver 94; Phoenix 116 Golden State 95

BIATHLON

NOVOSIBIRSK, Russia: World Cup: Men (10km): 1, L Gredler (Austria) 27min 59.9sec (0 penalties); 2, R Gross (Ger) 28:41.8 (1); 3, S Tarasov (Russ) 28:42.4 (1); 4, R Poiree (Fr) 29:12.4 (1); 5, P A Carrara (It) 29:16.9 (2). **Final overall positions:** 1, S Fischer (Ger) 312pts; 2, O E Bjoerndalen (Nor) 303; 3, V Maigurov (Russ) 285. **Women** (7.5km): 1, P Behle (Ger) 26min 30.3sec (0 penalties); 2, A Grasic (Slovenia) 26:46.0 (2); 3, S Paramygina (Bela) 26:46.8 (0); 4, U Disl (Ger) 26:55.5 (2); 5, S Greiner-Petter (Ger) 27:07.4 (3). **Final overall positions:** 1, M Forsberg (Swe) 319pts; 2, Disl 318; 3, Greiner-Petter 283.

BOWLS

PERTH: British women's indoor championships: Singles: Semi-finals: C McAllister (Scot) bt P Nolan (Ire) 21-20; S Hazell (Eng) bt A Sutherland (Wales) 21-16. **Final:** Hazell bt McAllister 21-15. **Women's home international indoor championships:** Scotland bt Ireland 139-96 (Scotland names first: E McGarvie bt M Fearon 21-19; J Conlan bt J Mulholland 19-15; R Hutchison drew with M Johnston 22-22; L Wren bt B Wilie 17-14; A Christie bt E Bell 32-12; J Sykes bt A McGuinness 28-14).

BOXING

GLASGOW: Cruiserweight (6rds): Danny Southern (Barnsley) bt Liam Richardson (Wakefield) rsc 5th rnd. **Light-middle** (6rds): Billy Collins (Stirling) bt Jason Barker (Sheffield) pts. **Super-bantam** (8rnds): Sean Anderson (Maybole) bt Neil Parry (Middlesbrough) rtd 4th rnd. **Super-bantam** (6rnds): Wilson Docherty (Condorrat) bt Ricky Beard (Dagenham) rsc 4th rnd.

CYCLING

TIRRENO-ADRIATICO RACE: Fifth stage (Conneldo-Ferentillo, 187km): 1, A Ferrigato (It) 4hr 39min 15sec; 2, M Bartoli (It); 3, L Michaelsen (Den); 4, R Sorensen (Den). **Leading overall positions:** 1, G Planegonda (It) 20hr 29min 32sec; 2, R Petito (It) at 2sec; 3, B Zberg (Switz) at 14.

FIGURE SKATING

LAUSANNE: World championships: Ice dance (after two compulsories): 1, O Gritschuk and E Platov (Russ) 0.4 factored placements; 2, A Krylova and O Ovsiannikov (Russ) 0.8; 3, S-L Bourne and V Kraatz (Can) 1.0; equal 4, S Moniotte and P Lavanchy (Fr) and M Anissina and G Peizerat (Fr) 1.6; 6, E Punsalan and J Swallow (US) 2.4; 7, I Lobacheva and I Averbukh (Russ) 2.8; 8, I Romanova and I Yaroshenko (Ukr) 3.2; equal 9, B Fusar-Poli and M Margaglio (It) and M Drobiazko and P Vanagas (Lith) 3.6; 11, K Mrazova and M Simecek (Cz) 4.4; 12, S Nowak and S Kolasinski (Pol) 4.8; 16, M Humphreys and P Askew (GB) 6.4.

FOOTBALL

WORLD CUP: Asian zone: Group A: Taiwan 3 Bangladesh 1; Malaysia 0 Saudi Arabia 0 (in Kuala Lumpur).

Monday's late results

VAUXHALL CONFERENCE: Hednesford 1 Kidderminster 4; Northwich 2 Halifax 2; Stevenage 2 Altrincham 1.

UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division: Hyde 5 Alfreton 0. **President's Cup: Semi-final, first leg:** Radcliffe 0 Blyth Spartans 0.

ICIS LEAGUE: First division: Croydon 1 Barton 0. **Third division:** Tring 2 Flackwell Heath 1.

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Chelsea 1 Swindon 2; Queens Park Rangers 0 Wimbledon 1.

PONTIN'S CENTRAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Derby 4 Liverpool 0; Everton 3 Stoke 1; Manchester United 2 Birmingham 1. **Second division:** Mansfield 2 Bradford 2; Stockport 1 Shrewsbury 3.

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: First division: Woolwich [illegible] 2.

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: Portsmouth RN 1 Brockenhurst 0.

SPANISH LEAGUE: Real Sociedad 1 Real Madrid 2.

HOCKEY

KARACHI: Golden Jubilee tournament: Germany 2 Australia 1; Pakistan 3 Holland 3.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Germany	2	2	0	0	4	1	6
Holland	2	1	1	0	6	5	4
Pakistan	2	0	2	0	4	4	2
England	2	0	1	1	1	3	1
Australia	2	0	0	2	3	5	0

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL MATCHES: Australia 2 Germany 2 (in Perth); Australia 4 Germany 2 (in Sydney); Australia 1 Germany 0 (in Newcastle).

AEWHA CUP: Sixth-round draw: Clifton v Canterbury; Slough v Ipswich; Hightown v Aldridge; Doncaster v Sutton Coldfield. □ Ties to be played on April 6.

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Buffalo 5 Boston 1; Florida 4 New Jersey 1; Ottawa 4 New York Rangers 3; Phoenix 3 St Louis 2.

RUGBY UNION

WELSH LEAGUE: Second division: Postponed: South Wales Police v Llandovery.

SAILING

BT GLOBAL CHALLENGE: Fourth leg: Latest positions (Sydney to Cape Town, with miles to Cape Town, as at 13.50 GMT yesterday): 1, Group 4 3,907; 2, Concert 3,720; 3, Save The Children 3,728; 4, Toshiba Wave Warrior 3,729; 5, Global Teamwork 3,739; 6, Commercial Union 3,741; 7, Motorola 3,746; 8, Time & Tide 3,797; 9, Ocean Rover 3,800; 10, 3Com 3,804; 11, Courtaulds International 3,852; 12, Pause to Remember 3,863; 13, Nuclear Electric 3,889; 14, Heath Insured II 3,916.

SQUASH

SUPER LEAGUE: ICL LionHerts 3 Ellis Lingfield 0 (LionHerts names first: C Walker bt R Eyles 9-7, 5-9, 10-8, 9-8; D Harris bt P Nicol 8-9, 9-2, 9-8, 9-8; M Chaloner bt S Meads 9-7, 8-10, 9-5, 9-6). Surbiton 1 Rowlands Manchester 2 (Surbiton names first: Jansher Khan lost to D Ryan 8-10, 9-6, 3-9, 3-9; S Parke lost to P Johnson 8-10, 8-9, 6-9; J Bonetat bt N Taylor 9-6, 9-4, 9-4). **Final league positions:** 1, LionHerts 14pts; 2, Maesteg 13; 3, Manchester 12; 4, Surbiton 11; 5, Lingfield 10.

TENNIS

ST PETERSBURG: Men's tournament: First round: G Rusedski (GB) bt T el Sawy (Egypt) 4-6, 6-1, 6-4; O Camporese (It) bt E Alvarez (Sp) 7-6, 7-6; N Marques (Por) bt A Belov (Russ) 6-4, 6-2; J Kroslak (Slovakia) bt A Stolyarov (Russ) 6-2, 6-4.

KEY BISCAYNE, Florida: Lipton tournament (US unless stated): **First round:** J Golmard (Fr) bt A Savolt (Hun) 6-3, 6-2; J Frana (Arg) bt M Tebbutt (Aus) 7-6, 6-3; D Flach bt M Petchey (GB) 6-1, 6-2; S Lareau (Can) bt R Schuttler (Ger) 6-4, 6-3; L Arnold (Arg) bt D Rikl (Cz) 7-6, 6-3; N Lapentti (Ecu) bt A Chang (Can) 6-7, 7-6, 6-4; M Charpentier (Arg) bt B Vujic (Yug) 6-2, 6-2; J Oncins (Br) bt N Bruno (It) 7-6, 6-0; S Bryan bt M Navarra (It) 6-[illegible], [illegible]-6; J Grabb bt D Dier (Ger) 3-6, 7-6, 7-6; G Etlis (Arg) bt G Doyle (Aus) 6-4, 6-4; L Adrian Morejon (Ecu) bt G Canas (Arg) 6-[illegible], 6-3, 6-3; R Jabali (Br) bt B Ellwood (Aus) 6-4, 6-3; J Alonso (Sp) bt J-P Fleurian (Fr) [illegible], 7-6, 6-2; C Haggard (SA) bt J Szymanski (Ven) 5-7, 6-4, 6-2; R Sabau (Rom) bt S Koubek (Austria) 6-0, 6-4; S Campbell bt M Knowles (Bah) 6-3, 6-7, 7-6; [illegible] bt S Matsuoka (Japan) 6-3, [illegible]; [illegible] bt L Herrera (Mex) 6-4, 3-6, 6-2; G Silberstein (Chile) bt M Bok (Holl) 6-1, 6-4; L Nainkin (SA) bt O Motevassel [illegible] 6-2, 3-6, 6-4; C Mamiit bt G Solves (Fr) 6-3, [illegible]; [illegible] Shelton bt D Orsanic (Arg) 3-6, [illegible]; A Hernandez (Mex) level with S Humphries [illegible], 4-6, 1-1 (match suspended, rain).

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TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

European Cup

Quarter-finals, second leg

Atlético Madrid (1) v Ajax (1)
Auxerre (1) v Borussia Dortmund (3)
FC Porto (0) v Man Utd (4)
Juventus (1) v Rosenborg (1)

FA Carling Premiership

Chelsea v Southampton (7.45)
Leicester v Tottenham (7.45)
Middlesbrough v Blackburn (7.45)

DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Premier division: Salisbury v Gresley (7.45). **Midland division:** Corby v Bedworth. **Southern division:** St Leonards v Clevedon.

UNIBOND LEAGUE: First division: Droylsden v Gretna. **President's Cup: Semi-final, first leg:** Farsley Celtic v Runcorn.

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Bournemouth v Oxford United (2.0); Brighton v Swansea (2.0); Ipswich v Bristol Rovers; Norwich v Tottenham; Southampton v Luton (at Staplewood, Marchwood); Millwall v Bristol City (2.0). **League Cup:** Swindon v Cardiff (2.0).

PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Bolton v Nottingham Forest (7.0); Leeds v Oldham (at Halifax Town FC, 7.0). **First division:** Aston Villa v Blackpool (at Walsall FC, 7.0); Port Vale v Huddersfield (7.0); Sunderland v Wolverhampton (at Durham City FC, 7.0). **Second division:** Carlisle v Rotherham (7.0); Grimsby v Burnley (7.0); Hull v Barnsley (7.0); Wrexham v Bradford (7.0); York v Manchester City (7.0). **Third division:** Darlington v Lincoln (7.0); Doncaster v Bury (7.0); Rochdale v Walsall (7.0); Scarborough v Chesterfield (7.0); Scunthorpe v Chester (7.0).

GILBERT LEAGUE OF WALES: Cwmbran v Aberystwyth (7.45). **Cup: Semi-final, first leg:** Ton Pentre v Barry.

SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE: Premier division: Bridport v Chard; Westbury v Calne (7.45).

MINERVA SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division: London Colney v Milton Keynes.

ENDSLEIGH MIDLAND COMBINATION: Premier division: Kings Heath v Coventry Sphinx; Meir Ka v Boldmere S.

HELLENIC LEAGUE: Premier division: Endsleigh v Wantage; Kintbury v Didcot; Lambourn Sports v Fairford.

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Eastwood H v Trafford; Rossendale v Clitheroe.

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Sheffield v Ossett Albion.

JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division (7.45): Soham v Halstead; Stowmarket v Tiptree; Sudbury Town Res v Felixstowe P and T; Wisbech v Warboys.

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: Christchurch v Cowes Sports.

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: First division: Sheppey v Greenwich.

UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Three Bridges v Arundel.

BASS IRISH CUP: Quarter-final replay: Coleraine v Loughgall (8.0).

FA WOMEN'S PREMIER LEAGUE: National division: Arsenal Ladies v Croydon Ladies (at Potters Bar FC).

SCHOOLS MATCHES: English Schools Snickers Under-19 Trophy: Quarter-finals: Parmiters College, Hertfordshire v Richard Challiner, Surrey (at St Albans, 6.45); West Cheshire College v Cardinal Newman, Lancashire (at Ellesmere Port Stadium, 7.0).

RUGBY UNION

Welsh League

Second division

Cross Keys v Bonymaen (7.30)

BUSA CHAMPIONSHIP: Men: Final: Loughborough University v Brunel University College (at Twickenham, 3.0).

RUGBY LEAGUE

NATIONAL CONFERENCE LEAGUE: Premier division: Heworth v West Hull (7.30).

ALLIANCE CHAMPIONSHIP: Leeds v Hull KR; Wigan v Castleford.

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Sheffield v London Towers (7.0).

BOWLS: Women's home international championships (at Perth).

GOLF: Sunningdale Foursomes.

ROWING: Schools Head of the River (Tideway, 1.0).

SNOOKER: Benson and Hedges Irish Masters (Co Kildare).

SPEEDWAY: Challenge: Hull v Newcastle (7.30).

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Guscott does his stuff with a vengeance

SIMON BARNES

Midweek View

Fired up for his belated chance to impress, Guscott bursts clear of the Wales defence during an inspired display. *Photograph: Marc Aspland*

It is a shameful thing: one of the lowest of low emotions. And consequently it is something that goes very, very deep. It is the desire to stuff it up — no, really, I am sorry for this demotic language, but there is no other way of putting it. It is a low thing, and it can only have a low name.

And yet it is one of the most powerful and compelling of all emotions, something that inflames a person with desire, something that in its discharge leaves one almost comatose with self-satisfaction.

Flashback many years: a press awards ceremony. And there is a personal devil emerging from still deeper in my past, one who shifted heaven and earth in his efforts to get rid of me, and who told me I would never work in national newspapers. "Simon," he said, rather sportingly, "Congratulations."

"Thank you," I said. "I owe it all to the way you trained me." And, being a petty person at heart — like every other human being — I glowed like the aurora borealis with self-delight.

And so I send fraternal greetings to Jeremy Guscott. Now, I have never been a member of the Guscott-is-God club; I have found him more frustrating than inspiring. Apart from a few minutes at the end of the game against Ireland, he was omitted by the *soi-disant* master tactician of an England rugby union coach, Jack Rowell, for all but the final 40 minutes of the five nations' championship.

And did Guscott ever stuff it up Jack Rowell last Saturday. I have never seen him play so brilliantly, with razored incisiveness, with lethal inventiveness, with rat-trap defence. He played like a man in a cold, murderous rage. He sought to pack a full international season into those 40 minutes, and he succeeded admirably in his aim.

His aim was, it seemed, not so much to beat Wales, but the still more laudable ambition of stuffing it up. He made Rowell look a fool and a blind one, a person enslaved by his own sense of self. Guscott made the rugby union world shake its head and say: "Well, if he had played all season, England would probably have beaten France." By easy and not necessarily fair stages, Guscott has made his coach look like the man who cost England a grand slam.

Sweet. From the lowest of motives, the highest of performances: 'twas ever thus in sport. In football it has been elevated to the level of a guiding principle, one that the Italians call *l'immutabile legge dell'ex* — the immutable law of the ex.

Which means, if you are Mark Hughes, you are always going to score against Manchester United. A player who has known the hurt of rejection *invariably* scores against his old club. This is not because he knows the ways of his former colleagues and has some kind of tactical advantage, for the same principle would work against him. No. His appetite is the stronger, that's all, and that is because he is inspired by the unholy *need to stuff it up.*

Guscott's spell on the replacements' bench worked for the benefit of his side when at last he was allowed the opportunity. And the bench does seem to have some kind of magic. But few managers, I think, deliberately use the ploy of benching a player in order to inspire him. The magic only works when there is a matter of spite involved.

Faustino Asprilla was bought for vast sums by Newcastle United and then had his nose put out as still more vast sums were paid for Alan Shearer. But Asprilla's recent Premiership performances, when promoted from the bench in Shearer's absence, have re-inspired a lost-looking side.

Meanwhile, a still more famous bench-warmer remains waiting for the day in which he will make someone suffer. Gianluca Vialli, one of the most illustrious players in English football, spent another 85 minutes on the bench last Sunday.

"This should not be happening to a great player like this. He deserves more." This was, incredibly, Ruud Gullit, the Chelsea manager. "It hurts me to keep him on the subs' bench, but at the moment there is nothing I can do."

Vialli has behaved impeccably throughout this difficult period. But at 32, there is no future in biding your time. He must be going mad. Sooner or later someone will pay for this, and it could be Chelsea, it could be Gullit.

It has been suggested that Vialli's Italy and Chelsea colleague, Gianfranco Zola, who is carrying a hip injury, needs to take a break. "I don't want to rest," he said. "If I stay well, then I feel I must play in every game. Missing some matches and playing in others is not an option for me. If I am playing well and the team is playing well, it is not wise to make changes."

No. Or you end up a long-term substitute when the team does still better without you. And all you can do is sit there, burning with the urge to stuff it up.

Stuffing it up may be a low emotion, but it brings out all of a player's most combative qualities. Qualities that will be needed by the England cricket team this summer against the rampant Australians. Does Mark Ramprakash, the brilliant Middlesex batsman last seen for England making a pair at Lord's, nurse in his heart the coruscating desire to stuff it up? If so, pick him like a shot.

Vialli, consigned to the bench again, awaits the opportunity to make someone suffer

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page *44*

CESTUS

(a) and (b). A belt or girdle for the waist; particularly that worn by a bride in ancient times. Specifically that of Aphrodite or Venus. From the Greek *kestós* stitched. Also a contrivance consisting of thongs of bullhide, loaded with strips of iron and lead, and wound round the hands. Used by unsporting Roman boxers as a protection and to give greater weight to the blows. Latin *caestus*, commonly regarded as anomalously from *caedere* to biff. But probably influenced by the girdle.

CHAKRA

(c) A circular weapon, used by the Sikhs. From the Sanskrit for a wheel. "The chakr or chakra is a thin knife-edged ring of flat steel, a severe missile in skilled hands." Also mystic circle placed in the hands of pictured Hindu gods. In Yoga, one of the centres of spiritual and ethereal power in the human body. Also the emblem on the flag of India.

CHALAZA

(c) Each of the two membraneous twisted strings by which the yolk-bag of an egg is bound to the lining membrane at the ends of the shell, and kept near the middle of the albumen, with the germinating point uppermost. From the Greek word for hail, or any small lump or knot like a hail-stone.

CHANDLER'S WOBBLE

(b) A movement in the Earth's axis of rotation that causes latitude to vary with a period of 14 months. An eponym of Seth Carlo Chandler (1846-1913), an American astronomer. Chandler's discovery was facilitated by his invention of the almucantar, a device for measuring the positions of stars relative to a circle centred at the zenith rather than to the meridian.

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1 ... Qd1! 2 Kg2 (2 Qxd1 Bxe4+ mating) 2 ... Qe2+ 3 Kh3 Bxe4 and the White position collapses.

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ICE SKATING

Russians lead dance after tough battle

By Our Sports Staff

OKSANA GRITSCHUK and Yevgeny Platov, the Olympic champions from Russia, skated into the lead of the ice dance event yesterday at the world figure skating championships after a tough battle in Lausanne. Angelika Krylova and Oleg Ovsiannikov, of Russia, were second with Shae-Lynn Bourne and Victor Kraatz, of Canada, third.

The biggest surprise came when the Canadian judge made Bourne and Kraatz first in the rhumba. Every other judge made Gritschuk and Platov first on their card in both dances.

"It just goes to show each judge has a different opinion," Bourne said. "I think our judge is good and honest."

"Someone finally had the guts to do something about the skating and not the hierarchy," Kraatz said. "If every judge judged according to what they saw, there would be better judging."

Gritschuk and Platov are three-time world champions and have not been defeated since the 1994 European championships. Krylova and Ovsiannikov edged into second place ahead of the Canadians, with four of seven judges placing them second. The couples tied on the first dance.

After the two compulsory ice dances, Gritschuk and Platov are established in first place. The two French couples, Sophie Moniotte and Pascal Lavanchy, and Marina Anissina and Gwendal Peizerat, were tied in fourth position.

Ottavio Cinquanta, president of the International Skating Union (ISU), said yesterday that changes to figure skating's judging system, to make it more easily understood by the public, could occur before the Winter Olympics in Japan next year. He said that amendments could take place "if we can make them within the framework of the present regulations".

However, he stressed that big changes could only be passed by the biennial ISU congress, which does not meet until mid-1998.

SKIING

Freshwater springs a surprise on champion

From a Special Correspondent in Tignes, France

ANDREW FRESHWATER earned his first senior British title yesterday when he held off the challenge of Graham Bell, the defending champion, in the downhill, the blue riband event at the British Land national championships here yesterday.

Freshwater, 23, from Loch Insh in the Spey Valley, the leading member of the newly-established British men's downhill B team, has already halved his world ranking this season, to 110th, and has regularly skied quicker than Bell on super giant slalom and downhill courses throughout this season, notably at the world championships in Sestriere, Italy, last month.

Conditions on the course were perfect as the organisers beat the ferocious sunshine with an early start. Bell, 30, went first and skied his usual aggressive line on a course he knew more intimately than most of his opponents, having raced here since 1991. He could offer no explanations for finishing fifteenth in the international field and third in the British national contest. Finlay Mickel, 19, from Edinburgh, who skis with Freshwater on the B team, was second.

Freshwater, who is torn between the uncertainty of waiting for National Lottery funding to continue his skiing career or securing a salary and part-time skiing as an RAF physical training instructor, completed the Lognan Europa Cup piste in 1min 10.42sec, which put him 0.46sec clear of Mickel. Bell recorded 1min 11.05sec.

The international downhill was won by Jean-Luc Cretier, France's No 2 downhill skier, in 1min 09.64sec, with French skiers taking all of the top three places. Sophie Ormond, 17, the French-based 1995 overall champion, won the women's downhill title for the second time.

RESULTS: Downhill: Men: 1, J-L Cretier (Fr) 1min 09.64sec; 2, A Denariaz (Fr) 1:10.05; 3, N Burtin (Fr) 1:10.06; 8, A Freshwater (Loch Insh) 1:10.42; 12, F Mickel (Edinburgh) 1:10.88; 15, G Bell (Henley) 1:11.05. *Women:* 1, S Ormond (Grand Bornand) 1:15.66; 2, N Teraz (Slovenia) 1:15.97; 3, T Pine (Aberdeen) 1:16.44; 6, S Robertson (Aberdeen) 1:17.26; 8, K Morris (York) 1:18.35

RADIO CHOICE

A mixed hope for the future

Listen Without Prejudice. *Radio 1, times vary.*

The Stephen Lawrence murder and other ugly manifestations of racism have made Radio 1's annual and laudable focus on race as relevant as ever this year. By definition it is impossible to know how much good these themed programmes achieve, but the huge and young audience for Radio 1 represents the single greatest hope of making Britain a genuine multiracial society. Programmes start today and run until Saturday, dovetailing with the European Year Against Racism. Jyoti Mishra from White Town and Skin from Skunk Anansie are fronting the campaign, which includes documentary items and music written specially by a number of pop artists. This is the public service broadcasting remit at its best.

Viewing Essential. *Radio 4 (FM only), 10.00am.*

This series is probably not designed to mark the first anniversary of my house going on the market. Apparently there are places where houses put up for sale today are sold tomorrow, but I have never wanted to live in one of them. But in spring a series about the dreams and realities of changing one's home is somewhat timely. Moraid Devlin pries, to an astonishing extent, into the lives of four willing participants, opening cupboards in their lives and testing their relationships for dry rot. It must have felt like having the builders in. People who cannot get FM reception should visit the nearest estate agent, who is bound to be listening.

Peter Barnard

RADIO 1

7.00am Mark Radcliffe, includes **7.30** Newsbeat **9.00** Simon Mayo **12.00** Jo Whiley **2.00pm** Nicky Campbell **4.00** Kevin Greening **6.15** Newsbeat **6.30** Evening Session with Steve Lamacq **8.30** John Peel **10.30** Mary Anne Hobbs includes a live session from James as part of Listen Without Prejudice: See Choice **1.00am** Claire Sturgess **4.00** Clive Warren

RADIO 2

6.00am Sarah Kennedy **7.30** Wake Up to Wogan **9.30** Ken Bruce **11.30** Jimmy Young **1.30pm** Debbie Thrower **3.00** Ed Stewart **5.05** Paul Heiney **7.00** Jim Lloyd with Folk on Two **8.00** Boys of the Lough (4/4) **8.30** The Music of Japan (1/4) **9.00** Anita Bhalla's Across Two Cultures: Perween Warsi (5/6) **9.30** Nigel Ogden **10.30** The Jamesons **11.45** Salt of the Earth (6/7) **12.05am** Steve Madden **3.00** Charles Nove

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports **6.00** The Breakfast Programme **9.00** The Magazine **12.00** Midday with Mair **2.00pm** Ruscoe on Five **4.00** Julian Worricker Nationwide **7.00** News Extra with Valerie Sanderson **7.20** Trevor Brooking's Football Night. Coverage of the European Cup quarter-final, second leg: FC Porto v Manchester United. Includes the results of the National Lottery **10.00** The Baker Line **11.00** News Extra **12.00** After Hours **2.05am** Up All Night

TALK RADIO

5.00am Chris Ashley and Sandy Warr **7.00** Paul Ross **9.00** Scott Chisholm **12.00** Lorraine Kelly **2.00pm** Tommy Boyd **4.00** Peter Deeley **7.00** Moz Dee's Sportszone **10.00** James Whale **1.00am** Ian Collins

WORLD SERVICE

All times in **GMT**. News on the hour. **5.30am** Europe Today **6.30** Europe Today **7.15** Red Dwarf (5/12) **7.30** Discovery **8.10** Words of Faith **8.15** Global Shake-Out **9.07** World News **9.15** Andy Kershaw **9.45** Sports Roundup **10.30** BBC English **10.45** Red Dwarf (5/12) **11.30** A History of British Theatre **12.05pm** World Business Report **12.15** Britain Today **12.30** Composer of the Month **2.05** Outlook **2.30** Megamix **3.05** Sports Roundup **3.15** Global Shake-Out **4.15** World Today **4.30** BBC English **4.45** Britain Today **5.30** World Business Report **5.45** Sports Roundup **6.30** Discovery **7.01** Outlook **7.25** Words of Faith **7.30** Multitrack **9.15** Britain Today **9.30** Meridian On Screen **10.30** World Today **10.45** Sports Roundup **11.10** Science View **11.15** Country Style **11.30** Multitrack **12.30am** From Our Own Correspondent **12.45** Britain Today **1.30** Outlook **1.55** Words of Faith **2.30** Assignment **3.15** Sports Roundup **3.30** Meridian Books **4.30** Europe Today

CLASSIC FM

4.00am Mark Griffiths **6.00** Mike Read **9.00** Henry Kelly **12.00** Susannah Simons **2.00pm** Lunchtime Concerto. Crusell (Clarinet Concerto No 2 in F minor Op 5) **3.00** Jamie Crick **7.00** Classic Newsnight with John Brunning **7.30** Sonata. J.S. Bach (Flute Sonata in A major BWV 1032) **8.00** Evening Concert. Stravinsky (Pulcinella Suite); Shostakovich (Piano Concerto No 2 in F major Op 102); Walton (Belshazzar's Feast) **10.00** Michael Mappin includes Nocturne **1.00am** Mel Cooper

VIRGIN RADIO

6.00am Russ 'n' Jono **10.00** Graham Dene **1.00pm** Jeremy Clark **4.00** Nicky Horne **7.00** Paul Coyte (FM) / Robin Banks (AM) **10.00** Mark Forrest **2.00am** Randal Lee Rose

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, with Penny Gore. Includes Brahms (Clarinet Trio in A minor, Op 114); Arensky (Variations on a Theme of Tchaikovsky)

9.00 Morning Collection, with Peter Hobday. Includes an Gervaise (French Renaissance Dances); Bach (Two-Part Inventions)

10.00 Musical Ecounters. Includes Rameau (Overture: Dardanus), Mozart (Piano Sonata in C, K545); Copland (Appalachian Spring); Saint-Saëns (Calme des Nuits

12.00 Composer of the Week: Henry Cowell

1.00pm Concert Hall. Christodoulos Georgiades, piano. Includes Haydn (Sonata in C minor, H XVI 20); Skalkottas (32 Piano Pieces, No 32: Little Peasant March; No 16: Revene in the Olden Style; No 4: Catastrophe in the Jungle)

2.00 Midweek Choice. Includes Bach (Toccata in C minor, BWV911); Britten (Rejoice in the Lamb)

4.00 Choral Evensong

5.00 Music Machine

5.15 In Tune, with Andrew Green. Includes Glazunov (Spring); Beethoven (Six National Airs with Variations, Op 105)

6.00 Lohengrin, by Wagner. With Anthony Michaels-Moore, baritone, Rene Pape, bass, Sergei Leiferkus, tenor, Karita Mattila, soprano, Gosta Winbergh, tenor, Gwyneth Jones, soprano, Royal Opera House Chorus, Orchestra of the Royal Opera House under Valery Gergiev **7.15** The James Naughtie Interview. With Dame Gwyneth Jones **7.35** Lohengrin, Act 2 **9.05** Paperback Writers. Books and authors of the 1960s (3/5) **9.30** Lohengrin, Act 3

10.45 Night Waves

11.30 Composers of the Week: Campra, Clérambault and Montéclair (r)

12.30 Jazz Notes

1.00am Through the Night. Includes **1.00** Mozart; Donizetti; Verdi **2.00** John McCabe **3.00** Schools

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping (LW) 6.00 News **6.10** Farming **6.25** Prayer **6.30** Today **8.40** Parliament **8.58** Weather

9.00 News 9.05 Midweek, with *Times* columnist Libby Purves

10.00 News; Viewing Essential (FM). See Choice

10.00 Daily Service (LW)

10.15 On This Day (LW)

10.30 Woman's Hour

11.30 Gardeners' Question Time, with Eric Robson (r)

12.00 News; You and Yours

12.25pm Envious Casca (2/4) **12.55** Weather

1.00 The World at One

1.40 The Archers (r) **1.55** Shipping Forecast

2.00 News; Hinterlands

2.45 The Vegetable Patch: Garlic. An affectionate look at the most pungent of roots (5/6)

3.00 News; The Afternoon Shift, with Daire Brehan

4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope. Paul Gambaccini talks to Arthur C. Clarke about his new book *3001* and explores the history of cinema through a multimedia stage exhibition

4.45 Short Story: Citizen's Arrest, by Charles Willeford. Read by William Dufris

5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping Forecast **5.55** Weather

6.00 Six O'Clock News

6.30 Counterpoint (r)

7.00 News 7.05 The Archers

7.20 Global Shake-out (4/4)

8.05 The Wardrobe(4/6) (r)

8.15 The People's Peace. Dame Ruth Railton and Sir John Drummond reflect on the transformation of Britain's musical life (4/6) (r)

9.00 Bird-Pecking Pulse and Three-Penis Wine (r)

9.30 Kaleidoscope (r) **9.59** Weather

10.00 The World Tonight

10.45 Book at Bedtime: The Duel, by Joseph Conrad (3/5)

11.00 Trust (2/6)

11.30 Seymour the Fractal Cat (FM) (5/5) (r)

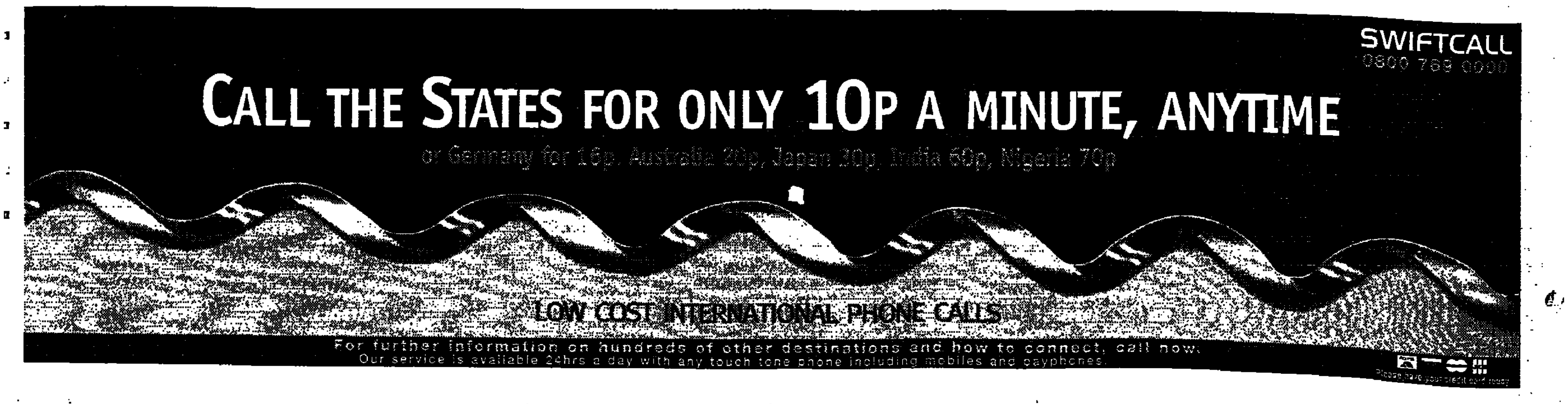
11.30 Today in Parliament (LW)

12.00 News 12.30am The Late Book: The Hobbit, by J.R.R. Tolkien (13/15)

12.48 Shipping Forecast

1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. **RADIO 2.** FM 88.0-90.2. **RADIO 3.** FM 90.2-92.4. **RADIO 4.** FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. **RADIO 5 LIVE.** MW 693, 909. **WORLD SERVICE.** MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). **CLASSIC FM.** FM 100-102. **VIRGIN RADIO.** FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. **TALK RADIO.** MW 1053, 1089. **Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara.**



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When the film cameras first went to war

REVIEW

Matthew Bond

First night back from holiday and what do we have? Child sex abuse, forcibly arranged marriages and the Boer War. I was almost too depressed to begin. By the end of the evening I was still depressed (these are not exactly subjects to gladden the heart, however well they are tackled) but at least my faith in documentary-making had been restored. Two of the three films were very impressive, leaving just one to be filed away for later under "well-intentioned failure".

Pick of the night — just — was **Timewatch: The Boer War** (BBC2), which had the edge largely because it dealt with a subject that was not just unpalatable but also unfashionable. For it is a cruel paradox that the millions of us moved regularly to tears by the losses of the First World War know next to nothing about the events of 15 years earlier. Somehow, it is too far away and too long ago to count.

William Cran, writer and director of *Timewatch*, lost little time in putting that right. Indeed, so little time that just occasionally — as generals came and went at reckless speed — it was difficult keeping up. But if you'd caught a couple of episodes of *Rhodes* and knew your Mafeking from your Ladysmith, you probably managed.

Cran's initial thesis was that the Boer War was effectively the first conflict fought under what quickly became the unrelenting gaze of the mass media. As opening theses go, this was interesting enough and the opening scenes were duly filled by flickering film footage recorded by pioneering cameramen such as William Dickson and by black and white stills taken by the first generation of photo-journalists. But this was not the end, more a means to the end.

These images, and the accounts written by the likes of Winston Churchill, Edgar Wallace and Arthur Conan Doyle, were used to tell the story of the war. Not just the story that the British Army censors wanted, but the whole story — the terrible tactical blunders that were made and would be made again to far worse effect 15 years later, the Boers' switch to guerrilla warfare, the British use of concentration camps, the scorched earth policy . . . and so it went on.

The reports by Churchill, Wallace and the correspondent from *The Daily Telegraph* who questioned the wisdom of advancing slowly in close ranks towards an enemy armed with Mauser rifles were *read with the sort of pukka accent* that you would expect. Ditto Dickson, who by virtue of being a Scot, got the dulcet Bill Paterson. The correspondents from the *Manchester Guardian*, however, were not so fortunate. Their reports were read in a nasal, northern whine that bordered on parody.

Linked together in time-honoured *Timewatch* style with modern footage of the battlefields *and the faultless hindsight of a* fairly partisan bunch of military historians, the contemporary accounts allowed Cran to hit both his targets: to tell the story of an often forgotten war and to show how it served as a ghastly rehearsal for what was to follow.

The sexual abuse of children seems rarely off our screens at the moment. Three weeks ago the great debate was whether Peter Kosminsky's *No Child of Mine*, the story of the serial abuse of a 12-year-old girl, was true or not. The matter, as I recall, was never satisfactorily resolved.

No such problems, I suspect, await **Witness: Loss of Innocence** (Channel 4). That's because the starting point for Leanne Klein's absorbing film was basically that shared by umpteen middle-class dinner parties — that actually there's not much child abuse around, but there are an awful lot of interfering busybodies trying to *prove otherwise and doing im*mense damage to family relationships in the process.

Klein was more impartial than that summary would suggest. She gave social services and the police the chance to tell their story, just as she did the family whose lives have been permanently blighted by a remark made by a three-year-old to her playgroup leader. Daddy had committed the unpardonable crime of not being very good at wiping his daughter's bottom. Cue social services, the police, the full Big Brother disaster.

What she most tellingly revealed were the structural weaknesses in an unarguably well-intentioned system, particularly the fact that everything appears to be kept on file. Of the 1,000 families investigated each week, only one in seven is found to be "at risk". That leaves six out of seven struggling to *rebuild lives that could have been* disrupted by a single malicious call or misinterpreted remark. But the hurt fades, doesn't it?

No, said the mother of the family providing the main case history: "It isn't all right, it never will be all right." And no, said the female officer from a child protection unit, who despite her tact and charm had yet to come to terms with the problems of securing a successful prosecution: "Even if you don't get a conviction there's a great stigma attached." And if that didn't depress you, then perhaps the proud admission from the male social worker that he didn't bathe his four-year-old daughter — because that's where abuse starts — will.

Finally, the one dud of the evening, **Network First** (ITV), which set out to retell the well-chronicled story of the two Birmingham sisters forced into marriages in Yemen 16 years ago without checking whether they *had a new ending. They didn't.* What they had was a crackly tape recording of the one sister still in Yemen — now 30 and the mother of six — insisting that she wanted to stay there: "Don't give me the past any more." Alas, it was too late.

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (58600)

7.00 BBC Breakfast News (T) (33258)

9.00 Breakfast News Extra (T) (5089074)

9.20 Style Challenge (4016616)

9.45 Kilroy (T) (113456)

10.30 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (78258)

11.00 News (T) and weather (6969513)

11.05 The Really Useful Show (7571242)

11.35 Change That (8229074)

12.00 News (T) and weather (7013242)

12.05pm The Alphabet Game (5127345)

12.30 Going for a Song (6324513)

12.55 The Weather Show (79568277)

1.00 News (T) and weather (36345)

1.30 Regional News (83238722)

1.40 Neighbours (T) (11532529)

2.05 Police Rescue (T) (5974529)

2.50 As Time Goes By (r) (T) (5851180)

3.20 Well Worth a Visit A visit to the Black Country Museum in Dudley. Followed by Shapes Of The Invisible (8551659)

3.30 Playdays (r) (5094258) **3.50** Chucklevision (5007722) **4.10** Popeye and Son (r) (1093548) **4.35** The Wild House (T) (5031635) **5.00** Newsround (T) (3308838) **5.10** Blue Peter (T) (1668839)

5.35 Neighbours (r) (T) (234884)

6.00 News (T) and weather (635)

6.30 Newsroom South East (987)

7.00 Noel's Telly Years 1964. The guests are Gerry Marsden, John Junkin and comedian Bradley Walsh (T) (4161)

7.30 Tomorrow's World Reports from the opening day of the *Tomorrow's World Live* event from the NEC in Birmingham, where Shahnaz Pakravan gets behind the wheel of the new electric Lotus Elise and Vivienne Parry explores the future of surgery(T) (971)

8.00 The National Lottery Live Carol Smillie presents the midweek draw (T) (762890)

8.15 The Best of Confessions Simon Mayo presents highlights from the last series (T) (615093)

8.50 Points of View (T) (392180)

9.00 News (T) and weather (5068)

9.29 National Lottery Update (240987)

9.30 Insiders: Good Behaviour An inmate's mother dies as he approaches his release date and, while on compassionate leave, he takes out his anger on his violent and alcoholic cousin — with devastating results (T) (107426)

10.25 Raw Deal (1986) with Arnold Schwarzenegger, Kathryn Harrold, Sam Wanamaker and Paul Shenar. Having been kicked out of the FBI, the town sheriff infiltrates a Chicago gang. Directed by John Irvin (514258)

FILM

12.00 Victim of Love (1991) Tense erotic thriller with Pierce Brosnan, JoBeth Williams and Virginia Madsen. Directed by Jerry London (T) (56827)

FILM

1.30am Captive (1991) Harrowing fact-based thriller, with Barry Bostwick and Joanna Kerns as a married couple whose life in a peaceful Midwestern town is shattered by two drug-crazed escaped convicts. Directed by Michael Tuchner (T) (885117)

FILM

3.05 Weather (73292407)

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes

The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCode™ numbers, which allow you to programme your video recorder instantly with a VideoPlus+™ handset. Tap in the Video PlusCode for the programme you wish to record. Videoplus+ (™), Pluscode (™) and Video Programmer are trademarks of Gemstar Development Ltd.

BBC2

6.00am Open University: History of Maths (7015074) **6.25** To Engineer is Human **6.50** Models All Around (9866838) **7.15** News (T) (7938529) **7.30** Wacky Races (r) (8619971) **7.55** Record Breakers Gold (r) (T) (3162345) **8.20** Teddy Trucks (r) (3427616) **8.25** Spot (r) (6720608) **8.35** The Record (5755529) **9.00** Jeunes Francophones (4321529) **9.25** See You, See Me (5099451) **9.45** Words and Pictures (7870987) **10.00** Playdays (11548) **10.30** Numbertime (7894432) **10.45** Cats' Eyes (7899987) **11.00** *Around Scotland (9911068)* ***11.20*** *Music* Makers (9977616) **11.40** Science in Action (9848890) **12.00** Spanish Globo (7011884) **12.05pm** History File (5125987) **12.30** Working Lunch (10722) **1.00** The Geography Programme (47335703) **1.20** Thunderbirds in French (66583068) ***1.25*** *Zig Zag* (47354838) **1.45** Come Outside (83142971) **2.00** Teddy Trucks (r) (27171345) **2.05** Spot (r) (27170616) **2.10** Everyone's Got One (2006093) **3.00** News (T) (3400105) **3.05** Westminster (4755548) **3.55** News (T) *(6376800)* ***4.00*** *Today's the Day (600)* **4.30** Ready, Steady, Cook (884) **5.00** Esther (2567)

5.30 World Figure Skating Championships The men's short programme (364)

6.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation (r) (T) (175819)

6.45 Trev and Simon's Transmission Impossible (248180)

7.00 CHOICE **Seven Wonders of the World** In the first of a new series Professor Aubrey Manning selects his personal seven wonders of the world (T) (2703)

7.30 Counterblast Charities' special privileges on tax and rent (T) (513)

8.00 University Challenge Glamorgan take on St Andrews (T) (1451)

8.30 Changing Rooms (r) (T) (7258)

9.00 CHOICE **Modern Times: The Way of all Flesh** How human cells were first grown outside the body (5529)

Jonathan Meades and dancer (10pm)

10.00 Even Further Abroad with Jonathan Meades *The Times* columnist explores The Fens. Last in series (T) (91109)

10.28 Science Week: Shapes of the Invisible (471180)

10.30 Newsnight (T) (589426)

11.15 World Figure Skating Championships *The pairs' competition* (903722)

11.55 Weather (433703)

12.00 The Midnight Hour (29952)

12.30am Learning Zone: Optical Telescopes (73285) **1.00** Cosmic Recycling (70759) **1.30** Venus Unveiled (19136) **2.00** Teaching Today (63117) **4.00** English Heritage (39575) **4.30** Unicef in the Classroom (84952) **5.00** Health and Safety at Work (37556) **5.30-6.00** Voluntary Matters (20681)

CHOICE

Seven Wonders of the World
BBC2, 7.00pm

Although the format is partly borrowed from *Desert Island Discs*, the idea of getting scientists to pick seven things that leave them in awe has produced excellent viewing. Among fans of the show is Sir Alec Guinness, whose diaries cannot stop enthusing over a programme featuring Miriam Rothschild. The new series is launched by Aubrey Manning, an urbane Professor of Natural History from Edinburgh University. His wonders are mainly drawn from the natural world and include an ancient yew tree, the dance of the honey-bee, the sadly extinct Tasmanian tiger and the Grand Canyon. But Manning also pays homage to human ingenuity, choosing a mechanical device called the hit-and-miss governor and, despite his lack of religious faith, Durham Cathedral.

An Inspector Calls: Special Investigations
Channel 4, 8.30pm

If the work of the Lancashire Trading Standards Office sounds less than gripping, then tune in and prepare to be surprised. Ticking off a bakery for not having price labels on its cream buns may be trivial stuff and helping an elderly woman to sort out a complaint about a three-piece suite is more doing a good deed than dealing with the crime of the century. But there is also Tim Coglan. Wearing sunglasses and a football shirt, he heads the office's investigations squad. These are the guys at the sharp end, and their prime target is counterfeiters. Coglan reckons that counterfeiting is a multimillion-pound industry, on a par with drug dealing and just as nasty. We follow him and the team as they are joined by the police in a raid on a factory suspected of turning out jeans under famous labels.

Modern Times: The Way of All Flesh
BBC2, 9.00pm

Although *Modern Times*, which normally deals with the mores of contemporary Britain, may seem an odd slot for a venture into the history of science, there will be no argument about the cogency of Adam Curtis's film. In 1951 an American woman, Henrietta Lacks, died of cancer. Cells taken from her body have been growing and multiplying ever since. For decades they gave scientists the hope of finding a cure for cancer and were at the root of a campaign that involved two American Presidents, Johnson and Nixon, as well as Hollywood luminaries including Bing Crosby and Joan Crawford. Soviet scientists also became involved, giving the search for a cancer virus a place in the Cold War. Meanwhile the Lacks family was growing angry at what it saw as exploitation. Curtis reconstructs the story with a blend of stylistic panache and rigorous, absorbing detail.

Countryside Undercover: Bitter Harvest
Channel 4, 9.00pm

Viewers of the recent BBC documentary on the mangetout will have noticed the huge discrepancy between the pay of those producing the vegetable and the profit of the supermaket chain which sells it. The mangetout was farmed in Africa but this film makes a similar point much closer to home. The film features Mandy Samara, who spent three months undercover as a casual worker on English farms. Her job was to pick carrots, leeks and lettuces for supermarkets and it was not a pleasant experience. Not only was the work back-breaking and miserably paid but she was shouted at, bullied, exploited and humiliated. Although the industry is still covered by a legal minimum wage, Samara shows how little this protection is worth. **Peter Waymark**

HTV

6.00am GMTV (6483890)

9.25 Chain Letters (T) (4248242)

9.55 Regional News (5110529)

10.00 The Time, the Place (95154)

10.30 This Morning (84232058)

12.20pm Regional News (7019426)

12.30 News (T) and weather (6422109)

12.55 Shortland Street (6327600) **1.25** Home and Away (T) (47332616) **1.50** Afternoon Live (11530161) **2.20** Vanessa (T) (56426068) **2.50** Afternoon Live (5853548)

3.20 News (4951695)

3.25 Regional News (T) (5301136)

3.30 Tots TV (3111285) **3.50** Sooty and Co (5092890) **4.10** Animaniacs (9672884) **4.20** Pinky and the Brain (2352703) **4.40** Cone Zone (T) (4923722)

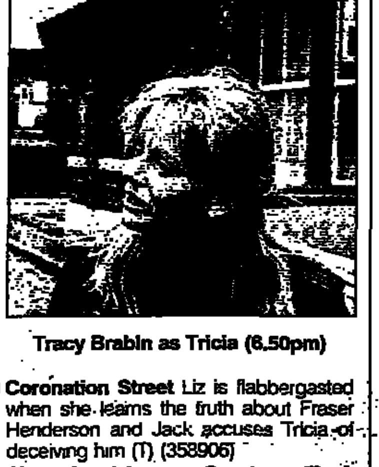
5.10 Look and Cook (r) (5260703)

5.40 News (T) and weather (573890)

6.00 Home and Away (r) (T) (848677)

6.25 HTV Weather (264513)

6.30 HTV News (T) (960890)



Tracy Brabin as Tricia (6.50pm)

6.50 Coronation Street Liz is flabbergasted when she learns the truth about Fraser Henderson and Jack accuses Tricia of deceiving him (T) (358906)

7.20 Champions' League Quarter — Final, Second Leg — Live! Porto v Manchester United Bob Wilson introduces coverage from the Das Antas stadium in Portugal (T) (70066838) Followed by National Lottery Result

NB: Subsequent programmes are subject to late running and alteration

9.30 Oddballs Wimbledon and Welsh international Vinnie Jones, former England cricketer Allan Lamb and impressionist Alistair McGowan join Eamonn Holmes for a comic foray into the sporting world (T) (21884)

10.00 News (T) and weather (88635)

10.30 Regional News (282762)

10.40 Taggart: Secrets Concluding the three-part police drama. As dogged detective Taggart draws ever closer to discovering the identity of Alex Currie's murderer, Gerry Hill uncovers further sinister secrets at the university (r) (T) (611105)

11.40 Champions' League Highlights Tony Francis introduces news and comment as the semi-final line-up is decided (551093)

12.45am Dating the Enemy (664778)

1.45 The Whereabouts of Jenny (1990) with Ed O'Neill, Debrah Farentino and Eve Gordon Emotional drama about a father's fight to gain access to his daughter Directed Gene Reynolds (358488)

FILM

3.35 Not Fade Away (r) (8556310) **4.30** The Time, the Place (r) (T) (88778) **5.00** Coronation Street (r) (T) (57310) **5.30** News (24407)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except:

12.55pm-1.25 A Country Practice (6327600)

5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (5260703)

6.25-6.50 Central News (109567)

1.45am Funky Bunker (653682)

2.45 The Chart Show (4915556)

3.40 Central Jobfinder '97 (195488)

5.20 Asian Eye (8929575)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except:

12.20pm-12.30 Illuminations (7019426)

12.55-1.25 Emmerdale (6327600)

5.10-5.40 Home and Away (5260703)

6.00-6.50 Westcountry Live (909187)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except:

12.55-1.25 A Country Practice (6327600)

5.10-5.40 Home and Away (5260703)

6.00 Meridian Tonight (199180)

6.20-6.50 Home Truths (543285)

5.00am Freescreen (57310)

ANGLIA

As HTV West except:

12.19pm Anglia Air Watch (7194161)

12.55-1.25 A Country Practice (6327600)

5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (5260703)

6.23 Anglia Weather (265242)

6.25-6.50 Anglia News (109567)

10.29 Anglia Air Watch (475906)

S4C

Starts: 6.00am Sesame Street (54838)

7.00 The Big Breakfast (53068)

9.00 Bewitched (92884)

9.30 Ysgolion (903884)

12.00pm House to House (85548)

12.30 Ellen (77790)

1.00 Slot Meithrin (56155)

1.30 Film: 80,000 Suspects (49513)

3.30 Collectors' Lot (161)

4.00 Fifteen-to-One (628)

4.30 Wild Britain (180)

5.00 5 Pump (7635)

5.30 Countdown (432)

6.00 Newyddion 6 (199613)

6.05 Heno (743203)

6.35 Jacpot (344703)

7.00 Pobol y Cwm (751364)

7.25 Ffermio *(703161)*

8.00 Phwoar! Insight into the modelling industry, as seen through the eyes of four would-be Welsh supermodels (3819)

8.30 Newyddion (9426)

9.00 Spin City An ordinary man on the street acts as mayor for the day (4906)

9.30 Roseanne Mike Tyson, Don King and Steven Seagal make guest appearances (29426)

10.00 Brookside The Simpson family near breaking point and Bel is comforted by *the belief that counselling will prove the* solution (991567)

10.35 ER Greene at last finds romance at work (138161)

11.30 Caroline in the City Annie and Caroline go man-hunting (22600)

12.00 Under the Moon (215339)

2.30am NBA XXL (73681)

4.00 Ysgolion (144914)

5.35 Diwedd (8501778)

CHANNEL 4

6.00am Sesame Street (54838)

7.00 The Big Breakfast (53068)

9.00 Bewitched (T) (92884)

9.30 Schools: Good Health (T) (903884) **9.45** Book Box (T) **10.00** Stage Two Science Glass (r) (T) **10.15** The French Programme **10.35** Irish Scientists and Inventors: John Clarke: Tatties, Spuds and Prabes **10.55** Mathsbook **11.07** Lost Animals. Gilbert's Potoroo **11.15** The Mix (T) **11.30** Rat-A-Tat-Tat **11.45** First Edition

12.00 House to House *(85548)*

12.30pm Baby It's You (4/6) (r) (T) (77790)

1.00 Ellen Audrey and Ellen throw a hen party for Paige (T) (56155) **1.30** Hand to Hand (48607567) **1.35** Through the Glass Ceiling, narrated by Alan Bennett (28058600)

1.55 Drive a Crooked Road (1954, b/w) with Mickey Rooney, Dianne Foster. A drama about a mechanic and racing driver who is led astray by a woman and her gangster boyfriend. Directed by Richard Quine (T) (89812109)

FILM

3.30 Collectors' Lot (T) (161) **4.00** Fifteen-to-One (T) (628) **4.30** Countdown (T) (180) **5.00** Ricki Lake (T) (7635) **5.30** Pet Rescue (T) (432) **6.00** Party of Five (T) (184567) **6.50** Fresh Pop (853161) **7.00** Channel 4 News (T) (738242)

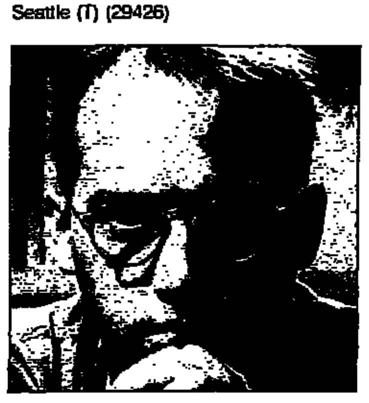
7.55 Black Holes of Science Why have we failed to apply evolutionary principles to our own thought processes? (257258)

8.00 Brookside (T) (3819)

8.30 CHOICE **An Inspector Calls: Special Investigations** The work of *trading standards officers* (T) (9426)

9.00 CHOICE **Countryside Undercover: Bitter Harvest** Life for casual farmworkers in England (T) (4906)

9.30 Fortean TV Father Lionel Fanthorpe presents more tales of the unlikely, including an attempt to recreate extinct animals and a 35,000-year-old warrior who has returned to hold classes near Seattle (T) (29426)



Anthony Edwards stars (10pm)

10.00 ER: Night Shift Medical drama series. Mark Greene (Anthony Edwards) jeopardises his career but finds romance at work: and somebody knows about Carter and Keaton (T) (6664)

11.00 Friends Newt Gingrich's sister, Candace, guest-stars as a minister who officiates at Ross's former wife's lesbian wedding (r) (T) (9451)

11.30 Cheers The rivalry between Cheers and Gary's Old Town Tavern intensifies (r) (T) (22600)

12.00 Under the Moon Sports magazine (215339)

2.30am NBA XXL American basketball action (73681)

4.00 Schools: Scientific Eyes (T) (144914)

5.35 Terrytoons (8501778). Ends at **6.00**

SATELLITE AND CABLE

● **For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Directory, published on Saturday**

SKY 1

6.00am Morning Glory (482616) **9.00** Regis and Kathie Lee (28971) **10.00** Another World (83277) **11.00** Days of Our Lives (90513) **12.00** Oprah Winfrey (46161) **1.00pm** Geraldo (62109) **2.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (69109) **3.00** Jenny Jones (62635) **4.00** Oprah Winfrey (78242) **5.00** Star Trek: Next Generation (8906) **6.00** Real TV (9068) **6.30** Married — with Children (5548) **7.00** The Simpsons (9635) **7.30** M*A*S*H (4432) **8.00** Sightings (94722) **9.00** Silk Stalkings (81258) **10.00** *Murder One* (84345) **11.00** Selina Scott (79971) **11.30** Star Trek: Next Generation (83068) **12.30am** L.A.P.D. (20117) **1.00** Hit Mix (1691681)

SKY 2

7.00pm Hercules: The Legendary Journeys (6623513) **8.00** Renegade (8705161) **9.00** New York Undercover (6629787) **10.00** Water Rats (6622884) **11.00** Late Show (6326987) **12.00** Hit Mix (9126827)

SKY NEWS

Worldwide news coverage, with bulletins on the hour. 24 hours a day, seven days a week

SKY MOVIES

6.05am An American Christmas Carol (1979) (72320722) **8.00 The New Adventures of Pippi Longstocking (1988)** (43161) **10.00 The Power Within (1994)** (65242) **12.00 Night Train to Kathmandu (1988)** (60884) **2.00pm A Simple Twist of Fate (1994)** (61187) **4.00 Two of a Kind (1982)** (19988155) **5.45 Troop Beverly Hills (1989)** (68718345) **7.30** Et (8600) **8.00 A Simple Twist of Fate (1994)** (90806) **10.00 Carrington (1995)** (56292068) **12.05am Animal Instincts II (1993)** (2798285) **1.35 Skl School 2 (1994)** (7490310) **3.05 It's Pat (1994)** (8374310) **4.20 The Power Within (1994)**

THE MOVIE CHANNEL

6.25am Jamaica Run (1953) (29150242) **8.00 Runaway Express (1992)** (41703) **10.00 Sailor Beware (1952)** (63884) **12.00 Say One for Me (1959)** (68426) **2.00pm Beauty and the Bandit (1994)** (12857) **4.00 Runaway Express (1992)** (4180) **6.00 Mister Dog (1995)** (86703) **8.00 Angel Flight Down (1996)** (98548) **10.00 The Usual Suspects (1995)** (545513) **11.45 The Companion (1994)** (279093) **1.20am There Goes My Baby (1994)** (539391) **3.00 Faraway, So Close! (1993)** (8587556)

SKY MOVIES GOLD

6.00pm Hud (1963) (3598529) **8.00 All of Me (1984)** (3593074) **10.00 Predator (1987)** (8958105) **11.50 Serpent and the Rainbow (1987)** (3668074) **1.30am Sinbad the Sailor (1947)** (9142353) **3.30 The Man Who Knew Too Much (1956)**

TNT

9.00pm An American in Paris (1951) (92721513) **11.00 Gaslight (1944)** (81188161) **1.00am Jack the Ripper (1959)** (39037001) **2.30-5.00 An American in Paris (1951)** (27902310)

SKY SPORTS 1

7.00am Sports Centre (13432) **7.30** Wrestling (11118) **8.30** Racing News (33722) **9.00** Sports Centre (24074) **9.30** Aerobics (60364) **10.00** Footballers' Football Show (21451) **11.00** Formula Three Preview (18987) ***12.00*** *Aerobics* (44838) **12.30pm** Football. Hall of Fame (64180) **1.00** Sports Unlimited (69635) **2.00** Cross-Country (48513) **4.00** Footballers' Football Show (16426) **4.59** Sports Centre (6701068) **5.00** Wrestling (6180) **6.00** Sports Centre (6242) **6.30** Tribute to Sir Stanley Matthews (3722) **7.00** Formula Three Preview (85074) **8.00** World of Super League (62398) **10.00** Sports Centre (45587) **10.30** Grass Roots Rugby (17161) **11.00** Sports Unlimited (84906) **12.00** Sports Centre (69594) **12.30am** World of Super League (50594) **2.30-3.00** Sports Centre (74662)

SKY SPORTS 3

12.00 Beach Volleyball (56336093) **1.00pm** Golf Extra (15316180) **4.00** Rebel Sports (83506258) **4.30** Waterski (83422242) **5.00** Iron Women (70483364) **5.30** Beach Volleyball (65634744) **6.30** Grass Roots Rugby (83507987) **7.00** Sports Centre (70390600) **7.30** Golf Extra (92216074) **10.30** Tribute to Sir Stanley Matthews (54205364) **11.00-11.30** Futbol Mundial (32928242)

EUROSPORT

7.30am *Eurogoals* (22426) **8.30** Figure Skating (46432) **10.00** UEFA Cup (79068) **12.00** Kick Magazine (39906) **12.30** Slam Magazine (66548) **1.00** Live Figure Skating (7410703) **4.30** Motors Magazine (27513) **5.30** Live Figure Skating (8639093) **9.30** Miss Fitness USA — Finals (93161) **10.30** Boxing Wooden v Swindell (10277) **11.30** Tennis ATP Tour Review (97906) **12.00-12.30am** Car on Ice (92846)

UK GOLD

7.00am Tellystack (6687529) **7.35** Neighbours (9442109) **8.00** Crossroads (1034884) **8.25** EastEnders (8478616) **9.00** The Bill (2857068) **9.30** Bread (2766703) **10.00** Never the Twain (4323364) **10.30** The Sullivans (2942180) **11.00** Sneezing (8278722) **12.00** Crossroads (2933432) **12.30pm** Neighbours (2777819) **1.00** EastEnders (3278695) **1.35** On the Up (3584451) **2.10** Dawson (28782548) **2.20** Sorry! (7511432) **2.55** Allo Allo! (6741426) **3.30** The Bill (8257155) **4.00** All Creatures (5473345) **5.00** Generation Game (56458345) **6.05** EastEnders (2032118) **6.40** Are You Being Served? (3542906) **7.20** Russ Abbot (7453364) **7.50** Bullseye (6952987) **8.20** In Sickness and in Health (5592600) **9.00** The Bill (5479529) **9.30** Paradise Club (10561277) **10.35** Sports Anorak of the Year (5182513) **11.10** Hazell (7806971) **12.10am** Cannon Confidential (2364643) **12.45** The Best of TOTP (9139575) **1.20** Callan (3028440) **2.15** Shopping (52631339)

GRANADA PLUS

6.00am Krypton Factor (2700890) **6.30** Tickle on the Tum (99480529) **6.45** Alarian's Music (15704364) **7.00** Allsons (4132797) **7.15** Tickle on the Tum (5611161) **7.30** Graham's Ark (2750659) **7.50** Josie Smith (3880258) **8.00** Classic Coronation St (4860277) **8.30** Families (4869549) **9.00** The Professionals (2726838) **10.00** A Fine Romance (7966987) **10.30** Mixed Blessings (4776884) **11.00** Within These Walls (6689838) **12.00** Classic Coronation St (4863384) **12.30pm** Families (7862884) **1.00** Crown Court (6587426) **1.30** Good Life Guide (7661156) **2.00** A Family at War (7966616) **3.00** Upstairs, Downstairs (1751890) **4.00** Doctor Series (6968548) **4.30** A Fine Romance (6997432) **5.00** The Professionals (6078074) **6.00** Classic Coronation St (6812797) **6.30** Families (6909277) **7.00** Doctor Series (6079703) **7.30** Mixed Blessings (6998161) **8.00** Upstairs, Downstairs (7305600) **9.00** Classic Coronation St (1776105) **9.30** The Comedians (7755548) **10.00-11.00** The Professionals (7499451)

Emma Thompson stars in *Carrington* (Sky Movies, 10pm)

THE DISNEY CHANNEL

6.00am Mouse Tracks (5224141) **6.25** Quack Attack (7220726) **6.50** Bonkers (3391920) **7.15** The Little Mermaid ([illegible]) **7.40** Aladdin ([illegible]) **8.05** Mighty Ducks ([illegible]) **8.30** Timon and Pumbaa ([illegible]) **8.40** The [illegible] Bears (1462635) **9.10** Groundling Marsh (2901722) **9.40** Big Garage (8077703) **9.55** Lamb Chop's Play Along (9726971) **10.25** Muppet Babies (5887971) **10.50** Dumbo's Circus ([illegible]) **11.20** Mouse Tracks ([illegible]) **11.50** Welcome to Pooh Corner (1926548) **12.20pm** Timon and Pumbaa (8878109) **12.35** The Little Mermaid ([illegible]) **1.00** Walt Disney Presents (1589364) **1.50** Aladdin (62537513) **2.10** [illegible] (63051819) **2.35** Bonkers ([illegible]) **3.00** Quack Attack (2808445) **3.25** [illegible] Pumbaa (4733616) **3.35** Goof Troop ([illegible]) **4.00** Timon and Pumbaa ([illegible]) **4.10** Goof Troop ([illegible]) **4.35** Bonkers (5779345) **5.00** Aladdin ([illegible]) **5.25** Timon and Pumbaa ([illegible]) **5.35** Darkwing Duck (208074) **6.00** [illegible] **6.30** Boy Meets World ([illegible]) **7.00** Brotherly Love (7451) **7.30** [illegible] **8.15** Touched by an Angel ([illegible]) **9.00** Life's Work (41180) **9.30-10.00** [illegible]

FOX KIDS NETWORK

6.00am Three Little Ghosts (5164703) **6.30** Inspector Gadget (7365451) **7.00** Samurai Pizza Cats (6340567) **7.30** Power Rangers (6329074) **8.00** Masked Rider (7307616) **8.30** Crocadoo (7306987) **9.00** Rimba's Island (5598838) **9.25** Why Why Family (2094838) **9.30** Zoobilee Zoo (3691426) **9.55** Why Why Family (6683136) **10.00** Rimba's Island (1938203) **10.25** Why Why Family (5913345) **10.30** Zoobilee Zoo (93574426) **10.55** Why Why Family (92799890) **11.00** Princess Starla (2785242) **11.30** Pinocchio (2786971) **12.00** Billy the Cat (7300703) **12.30pm** VR Troopers (29860277) **12.50** Power Rangers (29777513) **1.10** Masked Rider (25446093) **1.30** Ace Ventura (61924321) **2.00** Casper (4452345) **2.30** Life with Louie (7304136) **3.00** Eek-Stravaganza (4464180) **3.30** Ace Ventura (2954631) **4.00** Casper (8253628) **4.30** Power Rangers (7009780) **5.00** Masked Rider (4370797) **5.30** Spiderman (3304172) **6.00** Goosebumps (6554695) **6.30-7.00** Sweet Valley High (7803187)

TCC

6.00am Anne of Green Gables/Road to Avonlea (50074) **7.00** Dennis the Menace (45600) **7.30** Dennis the Menace (37635) **8.00** Batman (70277) **8.30** Art Attack (79548) **9.00** Flash Gordon (80600) **9.30** Bobby's World (99890) **10.00** Romuald the Reindeer (64762) **10.30** Robinson Sucroe (86884) **11.00** Danger Mouse (34890) **11.30** Gravedale High (43819) **12.00** Oscar's Orchestra (73384) **12.30pm** Halfway Across the Galaxy and Turn Left (77726) **1.00** By the Way of the Stars (44971) **1.30** Black Beauty (27287) **2.00** Girl from Tomorrow (6109) **2.30** Ocean Odyssey (1529) **3.00** Art Attack (5616) **3.30** Flash Gordon (6074) **4.00** Batman (5109) **4.30-5.00** The Big Dish (4093)

CARTOON NETWORK

Non-stop cartoons from **5.00am** to **9.00pm** Includes Tom and Jerry, Popeye and The Flintstones

NICKELODEON

6.00am Attack of the Killer Tomatoes (68567) **6.30** Count Duckula (80616) **7.00** Rocko's Modern Life (9552180) **7.15** Hey Arnold! (6667432) **7.30** Rugrats (30109) **8.00** Doug (32093) **8.30** Arthur (31364) **9.00** Children's BBC (22616) **9.30** Children's BBC (68908) **10.00** Wimzie's House (28488) **10.30** Babar (48600) **11.00** Magic *School Bus (96616)* **11.30** Henry's Cat/Wil Cwac Cwac/Lizzie's Library/Topsey and Tim/Jimbo (97345) **12.00** Bananas in Pyjamas (35180) **12.30pm** Little Bear Stories (62722) **1.00** Children's BBC (10345) **1.30** Children's BBC (61093) **2.00** Wubbulous World of Dr Seuss (1635) **2.30** Kissyfur (3155) **3.00** Wishbone (7242) **3.30** Stickin' Around (8600) **4.00** Bruno the Kid (6285) **4.30** Rugrats (6819) **5.00** Sister Sister (2987) **5.30** Moesha (7971) **6.00** Press Gang (4884) **6.30-7.00** Doug (1364)

TROUBLE

12.00 Heartbreak High (2774722) **1.00pm** Madison (8274906) **1.30** Sweet Valley High (2761258) **2.00** Hangtime (4244567) **2.30** California Dreams (8343906) **3.00** Byker Grove (4223074) **3.30** Blast (8348451) **4.00** Sweet Valley High (8334258) **4.30** Hangtime (8250242) **5.00** Saved by the Bell (4235819) **5.30** California Dreams (8347722) **6.00** Byker Grove (8344635) **6.30** Madison (8335987) **7.00-8.00** Heartbreak High (3527548)

BRAVO

8.00pm Robocop (3430068) **9.00** Burning Zone (3516432) **10.00** Tour of Duty (3526819) **11.00 FILM: Meet the Feebles** (6924364) **1.00am** Burning Zone (8383876) **2.00** Tour of Duty (9585865) **3.00 FILM: Closet Land** (2609469) **5.00** Robocop

PARAMOUNT COMEDY

7.00pm E Uk (5451) **7.30** Roseanne (7548) **8.00** Roseanne (8971) **8.30** Monty Python (7726) **9.00** Cheers (80780) **9.30** Taxi (59258) **10.00** Garry Shandling (43109) **10.30** Frasier (29529) **11.00** Armstrong and Miller (15797) **11.30** Monty Python Circus (93180) **12.00** Nurses (98020) **12.30am** Soap (59843) **1.00** Cheers (22759) **1.30** *Taxi (61136)* ***2.00*** *E Uk (50223)* **2.30** Armstrong and Miller (79730) **3.00** Frasier (35223) **3.30-4.00** Garry Shandling (93310)

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

8.00pm The Guyver (3768838) **8.30** The Twilight Zone (3747345) **9.00 FILM: Dune** (61540364) **11.40** Plan of Attack: Making of Mars Attacks! (8640548) **12.00** The Incredible Hulk (9342049) **1.00am FILM: Dune** (40464469) **3.40-4.00** Plan of Attack: Making of Mars Attacks! (50267469)

TLC

9.00am Joy of Painting (2951838) **9.30** Grow with Joe (2784345) **10.00** Two's Country Cooking (4321906) **10.30** Our House (2940722) **11.00** Fix It (5480635) **11.30** This Old House (5481364) **12.00** Yan Can Cook (2931074) **12.30pm** Graham Kerr (2768161) **1.00** Today's Gourmet (8270180) **1.30** Home Again (2767432) **2.00** Hometime (4144513) **2.30** Furniture to Go (8349180) **3.00** Two's Country (4236548) **3.30-4.00** This Old House

DISCOVERY

4.00pm Rex Hunt (8330432) **4.30** Australia Wild (8336616) **5.00** Treasure Hunters (4231093) **5.30** Beyond 2000 (8254068) **6.00** Wild Things (2776180) **7.00** Invention (4228529) **7.30** Wonders of Weather (8337345) **8.00** Mysterious World (4237277) **8.30** The Quest (4143884) **9.00** Unexplained (3529906) **10.00** Eco Challenge (3522093) **11.00** Warriors (8264529) **12.00** Classic Wheels (2503488) **1.00am** Driving Passions (4273136) **1.30-2.00** The Extremists (6811846)

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

4.00pm Biography. Hercules (8002838) **5.00** Driving Passion (3741161) **6.00** The Great Days of Our Century (6280906) **7.00-8.00** Biography Ava Gardner (4300797)

CHALLENGE TV

Win with **Prize Time** twice an hour

5.05pm Blockbusters (1823884) **5.50** Spellbound (216093) **6.30** Catchphrase (696703) **7.05** Sale of the Century (565529) **7.40** Give Us A Clue (728161) **8.20** All Clued Up (611567) **9.00** Through the Keyhole (450277) **9.35** Busman's Holiday (345906) **10.05** Treasure Hunt (810093) **11.20** Love at First Sight (692109) **12.00** Sale of the Century (43594) **12.30am** Family Late Hart to Hart (50551) **1.30** Lou Grant (20858) **2.30** Christy (50440) **3.30** All Together Now (31594) **4.00** The Fall Guy (47391) **5.00** HSN Shopping (6973136)

UK LIVING

6.00am Tiny Living (2240074) **9.00** Gladrags and Glamour (2822797) **9.10** Gordon Elliott (7975838) **10.05** Jerry Springer (4175906) **11.00** Young and the Restless (8579635) **11.45** Super Fresco Fabulosious (44956529) **11.50** Brookside (6305613) **12.25pm** Why Me? (70289258) **12.55** Tempest! (3867703) **1.40** Gordon Elliott (9233616) **2.30** Agony Experience (2305600) **3.00** Live at Three (49877074) **4.05** Jerry Springer (5859432) **5.05** Lingo (84460155) **5.30** Lucky Ladders (2489616) **6.00** I Dream of Jeannie (6482797) **6.35** Ready, Steady, Cook (3143616) **7.05** Brookside (1125093) **7.40** Who's Sorry Now? (6144093) **8.05** Rolonda (8468838) **9.00 FILM: Those She Left Behind** (84205890) **10.55** Sex Life (3501109) **11.25-12.00** Sex Life (7344345)

ZEE TV

7.00am Jaagran **7.30** ZEE Morning **8.30** Maa **9.00** Ebar Junbe Mawja **9.30** Abhinetri **10.00** Tara **11.00** The Low Cal Show **11.30** Dance Mania **12.00** Daraar **12.30pm** Dhoop Aur Chaon **1.00 FILM: Chahat** **4.00** ZEE Zone Presents **4.10** Public Demand **5.10** Alif Laila **6.00** Campus **6.30** ZEE and You **7.00** Kamal Kombination **7.30** Banegi Apni Baat **8.00** News and Euronews **8.35** Dastaan **9.05** Pathar **10.00** Hit Tro Hit Hai **10.30** Purush Kshetra **11.00** Mano Ya Na Mano **11.30-12.00** Antakshari

MTV

The 24 hour music channel. Includes news, reviews and live concert footage

VH-1

The video hits channel. Classic rock and pop videos and the best new sounds

RACING 43

Voice of racing helps to unravel National treasures

SPORT

WEDNESDAY MARCH 19 1997

RUGBY UNION 44

Canford triumph at first attempt in Rosslyn Park sevens

5th

Fans' behaviour under scrutiny

United need peace and prosperity

From Rob Hughes
Football Correspondent
in Oporto

AS Manchester United's flight circled Oporto airport yesterday, held up in the traffic swelled by the team's 10,000 travelling supporters, Alex Ferguson, the manager, reflected on the modicum of caution it is his duty to instil.

"We don't want to do anything silly," he opined. "It would take a tremendously inspired performance by Porto to win this tie now. But they will have their pride, they will come out looking for that early goal, and we will have to be professional, to do our job properly."

That said, the mission is, of course, well in hand. But taking a four-goal lead to a team whose supporters are as passionate as any in Europe does not invite complacency. History rules it out, for 19 years ago, in this very stadium, United lost 4-0.

Nevertheless, England needs two victories tonight. Not since 1985, the year of Heysel, have the English champions reached the semi-finals of the European Cup, nor have so many English supporters been abroad to follow their club since then.

They must beware the intoxication of glory. It was there in both airports yesterday. As the United players filed through the customs lounge in Manchester they walked into a throng of backslapping supporters, many of them already reeking of drink. And as they disembarked after the 2½-hour flight to northern Portugal, where the temperatures approached 25C, the hordes were there again.

One of them, entertainingly enough, took a ride on the baggage carousel, filming the players and directors on a camcorder as he was carried by. So far, so good. But in the stadium tonight there will be 450 police and outside it there will be many more forces of the law, including armed units specially flown in from Lisbon. That old, dangerous cocktail, Latin chaos and the English reputation for violence, is coming together.

For the most part, these supporters will be just what United need in the Estadio das Antas. They will pit their voices against the 40,000 home fans in the 50,000-capacity stadium.

The British Embassy is hoping for peace but knows that only 6,400 of United's fans have been allocated tickets for the area of the ground earmarked for them. The rest are either in possession of tickets for the FC Porto stands (acquired from rogue travel agents and touts), or hoping to buy them on the streets.

TEAMS

FC PORTO (probable, 4-4-1-1): Hilano — J Pinto, Aloisio, J Costa, F Mendes — Edmilson, Paulinho Santos, Barroso, L Drulovic — Z Zahovic — Jardel.

MANCHESTER UNITED (probable, 4-4-1-1): P Schmeichel — G Neville, D May, G Pallister, D Irwin — D Beckham, R Keane, N Butt or R Johnsen, R Giggs or J Cruyff — E Cantona — O G Solskjaer.

Referee: K Nielsen (Denmark).

Let us hope that the match remains the focal point. Ferguson can relax as much as his combative nature will allow, for the pressure is on his opponent. Yesterday Antonio Oliveira, the successor to Bobby Robson as the Porto coach, had gone to ground. Having incurred a £5,000 fine for refusing to meet the media after the humiliation at Old Trafford two weeks ago, he now shuns even his own press, taking Porto out of town.

Oliveira is a man beleaguered. For two thirds of this season his team was omnipotent, uncatchable in the Portuguese league and conquerors of AC Milan in the Champions' League. In 27 games at home and abroad, Porto had conceded 12 goals; but before, during and after the meeting with United, their nerve broke. In their next five games, the defence shipped another 12.

Jorge Nuno Pinto da Costa, the president of the club, called upon the citizens of Oporto to regard defeat in England as exaggerated and not an occasion for "inconsequent despair". Speaking for his hidden coach, the president was well aware that another home defeat, following last Friday, when Porto succumbed to Sporting Lisbon, their arch rivals, for the first time in 21 years on their own ground, will bring the club under even more intense scrutiny.

The rest of the country has grown tired of Porto's supremacy. In Lisbon, they are only too eager to believe all manner of allegations about Porto's bribery of referees, including one relating to the semi-final of the Cup Winners' Cup in 1984, when they defeated Aberdeen. That Aberdeen team was managed by Ferguson. If vengeance is any part of his motivation on this visit, one would not detect it. Ferguson has other things, such as a pulled hamstring, a damaged ankle and a thigh muscle strain on his mind.

He is unlikely to start with Andy Cole, whose form lately has been the best of his United career, because why should United risk a goalscorer whose left thigh is sore? Indeed, the emphasis will be on containing the Portuguese pride and passion in midfield.

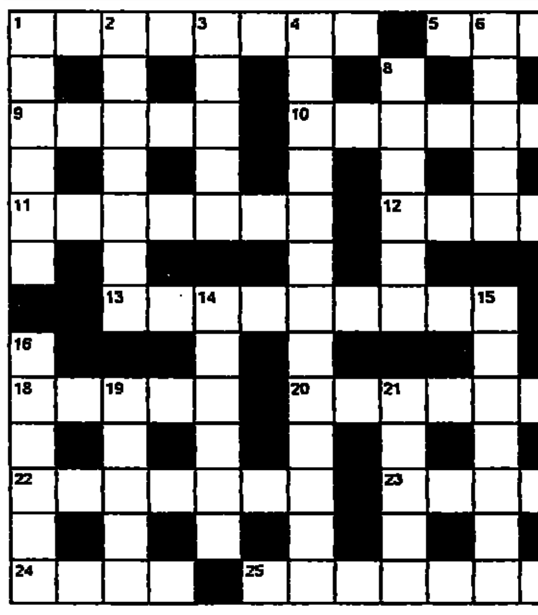
Gary Neville trained last night and appears ready to play despite two stitches in a swollen ankle, but Ryan Giggs, who probably gave the performance of his life in tearing Porto asunder two weeks ago, has a hamstring strain and may not be risked.

Hence Ferguson may use Jordi Cruyff on the left of midfield. But, no matter, it is for Porto to rediscover their threat and to overcome the palpable fear which Hilario, their goalkeeper, admits he felt in advance of meeting Cantona and Co the first time.

Dichio departs, page 45
Midweek View, page 46

The Manchester United players were in relaxed mood as they arrived at Oporto airport yesterday. Photograph: Alex Livesey/Allsport

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1045

ACROSS
1 Put a number to (8)
5 Knock (toe): portion of ticket (4)
9 Burning (5)
10 Ailment (7)
11 Drown: succumb (2,5)
12 Sift (5)
13 Really enjoy oneself (4,1,4)
18 Improvised (2,3)
20 (Esp. govt.) income (7)
22 Projecting fortification: defence (7)
23 Instrument; flower (5)
24 Arduous journey (4)
25 Trend: inclination (8)

DOWN
1 Unelected admin. body (6)
2 Horizontal bearing (of eg star) (7)
3 Heavy step (5)
4 He married Juliet *(Shak.)* (5,8)
6 In that place (5)
7 Eight-gallon measure (6)
8 Largest US state (6)
14 One suffering accident, crime (6)
15 US president: shade of green (7)
16 Poor batsman; chatter (6)
17 Gift in will (6)
19 Hurry (5)
21 Strongly coloured: graphic (5)

SOLUTION TO NO 1044

ACROSS: 6 Squeeze 7 Prism 9 Naked 10 Tenniel 11 Trompe l'oeil 14 Smorgasbord 17 Rhombus 19 Agate 21 Soggy 22 Modular

DOWN: 1 Bulk 2 Headlong 3 Belt up 4 Open 5 Dividend 6 Sink 8 Mildly 11 Thorough 12 Leonardo 13 Osiris 15 Sesame 16 Fear 18 Boyo 20 Axle

SOLUTION TO TIMES TWO CROSSWORD 1040
In association with BRITISH MIDLAND

ACROSS: 6 Tooth and nail 7 Junket 8 Impugn 9 Memo 10 Pot belly 12 Inimical 16 Tube 18 Friend 20 Dorsal 21 Paradise Lost

DOWN: 1 Bookworm 2 Shut up 3 Anoint 4 Snap 5 Fingal 6 Troce 11 Exterior 13 Norway 14 Caddie 15 Ladder 17 Blast 19 Exam

1st PRIZE of a return ticket travelling economy class to anywhere on BRITISH MIDLAND's domestic or international network is M Cranford, Dunblane, Perthshire.

2nd PRIZE of a return ticket to anywhere on BRITISH MIDLAND'S domestic network is S Latham, Forres, Morayshire

All flights subject to availability.

Klinsmann may prove Royle attraction

By Russell Kempson

JURGEN KLINSMANN, the Germany captain, announced yesterday that he will be leaving Bayern Munich at the end of the season. The surprise move is sure to alert English clubs and lead to increased speculation that he could return to the FA Carling Premiership that he graced with Tottenham Hotspur two seasons ago.

Klinsmann, 32, is unlikely to return to White Hart Lane, which he left only 12 months into his two-year contract. His premature departure, after he had scored 29 goals, proved bitter and acrimonious, with Alan Sugar, the Tottenham chairman, claiming that he had been betrayed.

Although Klinsmann is understood to have had offers to play in Spain, Everton and Nottingham Forest could also join the chase. Each has substantial transfer funds at its disposal and Joe Royle, the Everton manager, has long been an admirer of the much-travelled forward.

Royle flew to Germany to watch him play for Bayern in the *Bundesliga* recently and is keen to strengthen a side that lacks a consistent goalscorer. He is also believed to be preparing an improved offer for Trevor Sinclair, the Queens Park Rangers winger.

Klinsmann has decided to invoke a clause in his contract, which is not due to expire until June next year, that allows him to leave on a free transfer at the end of the season. He has become disillusioned with the bickering at the club and at criticism from Franz Beckenbauer, the Bayern chairman, and Lothar Matthäus, the club captain.

"I had a talk with Beckenbauer last week and told him I would probably go abroad next season," Klinsmann, who has also played for Stuttgart, Internazionale and AS Monaco, said yesterday. "I don't seem to fit in here. I wanted to tell Bayern now so that they can plan for the future."

Beckenbauer, who played the key role in bringing Klinsmann back to Germany, said: "It's a shame. We wanted to keep Jürgen a lot longer. But it's his decision and we have to accept it."

Klinsmann: disillusioned

George Graham's troubled reign as manager of Leeds United hit a new low yesterday when Carlton Palmer, the former England midfield player, made a transfer request and Tony Yeboah was fined and told to lose weight.

Yeboah, the Ghana striker, was fined two weeks' pay for ripping off his shirt and throwing it at Graham when he was substituted in the 1-0 Premiership defeat by Tottenham Hotspur at White Hart Lane on Saturday.

Graham would not disclose the amount of the fine. "That will remain private but I have told Tony to get back to his playing weight," Graham said. "That means he will have to lose just under a stone. I've looked at the weight he was when he came here and the weight he is now and he has quite a bit to lose."

Palmer, 31, a £2.6 million signing from Sheffield Wednesday in 1994, was booed by supporters during the drab goalless draw at home to Southampton last week and was left out of the team for the Tottenham match.

His written transfer request will go before the board of directors with Graham's recommendation. "What I will be recommending remains private," Graham said, "but I am not surprised by his request."

Andrei Kanchelskis, the former Manchester United and Everton winger, is reported to be unsettled at Fiorentina, the club he joined from Everton only two months ago. "He has been catapulted into a new world and is obviously handicapped by the language problem," Luciano Luna, the Fiorentina managing director, said.

Scottish clubs benefit by £7.25m

By Mark Souster

AFTER one of their worst seasons in the five nations' championship, which included three record defeats, Scotland face the prospect of permanent relegation to the second division of world rugby union unless drastic action is taken to bolster the domestic game.

Duncan Paterson, the Scottish Rugby Union's covener of rugby, outlined his concerns at Murrayfield yesterday as the union announced plans to put £7.25 million, largely from income from the sale of television rights, into club rugby over the next three years as part of its commitment to develop the game on a three-tier basis.

However, the vehicle for international success will remain professional districts, each with its own administration, professional coaches — who will be announced in a fortnight — and ultimately its own stadium.

Unless results improve in the European Cup next season via Scotland's three representatives, Caledonia, Scottish Borders and Glasgow, Paterson believes that Scotland will be squeezed out of the competition, with dire consequences.

"We are hanging on by our fingernails," Paterson said. "Ten or 12 clubs in England and France want our places in Europe now. If that happens we could slide into oblivion. What we are trying to do is have a three-tier system and fast-track as fast as possible to ensure our international survival."

Five nations' threat, page 44

Whiff of revolution in air at Sussex

Pat Gibson finds entrenched positions that promise a stormy annual meeting

The date has been set, the manifesto issued, the battle lines drawn. And tonight the voters of one of the most conservative constituencies in the land will turn out in large numbers to show whether they really do believe that it is time for a change.

Not the general election, but something of far greater importance to those who care about such things — the annual meeting of Sussex County Cricket Club, whose members have been roused from their deck-chairs by their former fast bowler, Tony Pigott, who has a vision of the future and the soundbites to go with it.

His resolution, calling for a vote of no confidence in the committee and their immediate resignation en bloc, may not be tabled until a special meeting, which he has forced on April 8. However, if the annual meeting — switched from the county ground at Hove to Brighton's Grand Hotel because of the expected turnout — is hostile towards them, they may have no alternative but to go.

Like John Major, Ken Hopkins, the chairman, is turning a blind eye to the opinion polls. "As far as I am concerned," he said, "we were elected by the membership to serve for three years and in my case I will not seek re-election until February next year. If the vote goes against us at the special meeting, that will be a different matter."

Hopkins, 63, a retired retail manager with Seeboard, took over only 12 days ago when Alan Caffyn was forced to resign after blaming Alan Wells, the county captain who was dismissed in October, for the turmoil that included Wells's departure along with five other capped players — Ed Giddins, Ian Salisbury, Danny Law, Martin Speight and Jamie Hall.

Hopkins has the support of two members of the committee, his vice-chairman, Alan Wadey, and the club's surgeon, Frank Horan, but three more who have only just been elected — Robin Marlar, a former captain, Jim May, a Brighton businessman, and Dick Holste, a long-serving member — have declared their support for Pigott's manifesto, suitably entitled Sussex 2000. This leaves another former captain, John Barclay as the floating voter holding the balance of power, although it was suggested last night that he was drifting towards the old guard.

Barclay: key player

A meeting between Hopkins and Pigott did little to help. "We did find some common ground in that we both care about Sussex," Pigott said. "Where we differ is that so far no one has actually taken responsibility for what has happened at the club and no one, apart from myself, has actually stood up to be counted."

☐ David Graveney, the new chairman of England selectors, yesterday rebuked Raymond Illingworth, his predecessor, for suggesting that Michael Atherton should be replaced by either Nasser Hussain or Adam Hollioake as captain of England for the one-day internationals against Australia this summer. "Ray had two years as a selector," Graveney said. "He's had his time and now it's down to Mike Gatting, Graham Gooch and myself to sort out which is the best way to sort out the problem."

Naked officialdom, page 5

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